

Radical group warns Croatia

CAIRO (AP) — A radical group has warned that it will take revenge if a militant leader who disappeared in Zagreb is extradited to Egypt, an Arab newspaper reported Monday. The threat came in a statement in which the Vanguard of Conquest charged that the Egyptian government has made a formal request to Croatia for the extradition of the militant, Talal Fouad Qasem, the London-based Al Hayat newspaper said. Mr. Qasem has acted as a spokesman for another outlawed group, Al Gamma Al Islamiyah, which has been blamed for much of the violence in a three-year campaign by Muslim militants to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. He disappeared earlier this month on a trip to Croatia. The Croatian government says he was thrown out of the country on Sept. 18 for violating residence laws, but his family says he has not turned up anywhere since. Egyptian security officials have declined to comment on the case. Al Hayat quoted the Vanguard as threatening that "any government which handed over or will hand over any of the Islamic groups to the Egyptian government will be a target for severe revenge."

Publisher accused of pulverising Egyptian classics

CAIRO (AP) — As if troubles with censors and Muslim radicals were not enough, Egypt's writers have a new enemy. A publisher is accused of tampering with the works of famous Arab writers, including Nobel winner Naguib Mahfouz.

A trial opened Monday on a suit charging the Maktabet Misr Publishers with slashing steamy love scenes or altering the characters of women pictured as independent with an eye towards sales in conservative Saudi Arabia.

Other supposed changes, particularly in Mr. Mahfouz's works, were seemingly without reason. Helmy Al Nemem, a culture reporter who first found the tampering, says Maktabet Misr's manager, Salah Al Sahar, is "a frustrated writer" injecting his own words.

Maktabet Misr is said to have made changes in 36 books by the late Ihsan Abdul Qaddous, three by Mr. Mahfouz and one by the late Yousef Idris, known as the father of the Egyptian short story.

Abdul Qaddous, who died in 1990 and whose novels became popular movies, seems to have suffered the most. His two sons, outraged at the changes, have brought three suits against the publisher, for three novels.

"Usually if a book is not approved of, it is banned altogether, but never changed. This is a disgrace that has never happened in the history of literature," said one of the sons, Mohammad Abdul Qaddous.

Mr. Sahar denied to the Associated Press that he modified the works of Mr. Mahfouz and Idris and called the changes in Abdul Qaddous' books "corrections."

In other interviews, he said he had permission for the changes. He was quoted in the Egyptian magazine October as saying he altered Abdul Qaddous' works to market them in "a Gulf country," presumably Saudi Arabia.

Such a motive is not surprising given the growing constraints put on Egypt's writers and artists by religious conservatism.

Last year, Mr. Mahfouz, who is 83 and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988, was stabbed by an Islamic radical. His works and those of other authors have been censored by the government for touching on religious sensitivities. Even Egyptian movies, once known for liberal scenes, have gotten more conservative to satisfy Saudi tastes.

Abdul Qaddous' novels are banned in Saudi Arabia

because they probe explosive areas — women's psyche, sexuality and quest for independence.

The novel involved in Monday's suit, "Ana Horra," is about a young woman who rebels against traditions and ends with the heroine uttering the defiant words of the title, meaning "I am free."

In Maktabet Misr's version, her words are followed by "and she thought in her ignorance that marriage is a restriction, and she lived a corrupt life because of her incorrect understanding of freedom."

Mohammad Abdul Qaddous — a supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist organization — maintained the changes had nothing to do with religion.

"Anyone who considers my father's books as violating Islam is narrow minded. My father's books are about freedom," he said. "The changes were not made for religious reasons. They were made for commercial reasons."

Mr. Nemem said he found changes in Mr. Mahfouz's "The Sparrow and Autumn," "Cairo 30" and "The Beginning and the End," the last of which is about a woman who becomes a prostitute to help her impoverished family.

The novel contains the sentence: "He asked himself whether he should tell his brother what descended upon him."

In the altered Idris book, "The Forbidden," one change has the words "licentious prostitute" becoming "licentious female."

Both Mr. Mahfouz and Idris' widow, Ragaa, have denied Mr. Sahar's assertion he was given permission for changes. Mrs. Idris said she would join the suit unless Mr. Sahar withdraws the editions. Mr. Mahfouz is said to be too tired for a legal battle.

Mr. Abdul Qaddous' family is pursuing the case adamantly. It has hired a team of editors to go through the 52 of the writer's 60 books published by Maktabet Misr to find any changes.

"We are going to raise a case against (Sahar) for every story he changed so that when he finishes with one case, he will be faced with another," Mohammad Abdul Qaddous said. "The only reward he can reap for this action is to be shut down."

Sudan says Libya to expel 30,000 this year

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Libya has given 30,000 Sudanese workers until December to pack their belongings and leave the country, a Sudanese official was quoted as saying on Monday.

Salah Mohammad Osman, the acting secretary general for expatriates affairs, told the official Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper that Tripoli would give the expelled workers time to make an orderly exit and settle their affairs.

There have been "problems with the repatriation of Sudanese expelled from Libya and some of them returned by paying their own way," Mr. Osman told Al Sudan Al Hadith.

Sudanese Minister of State for Expatriate Affairs Tajeed Al Hadi was in Libya to work out the problems. Mr. Osman said.

For those caught at the border, Khartoum has "distributed questionnaires to organise their transport and will help them in paying border taxes and customs," he said.

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Another Omani daily, Al Raya, said "the important thing is not to close the accord on paper but to translate it into fact," adding that peace most now be reached between Israel on one side and Syria and Lebanon on the other.

Qatar announced in July that it would open a representative office in the Palestinian autonomous areas, the first Arab Gulf state to do so.

The Gulf News in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) expressed concern that the accord was the fruit of too many concessions from PLO leader Yasser Arafat to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"It is feared that Arafat has negotiated from a position of weakness and made too many concessions," it said.

In the next six months Israeli troops are to quit the heavily populated areas in the West Bank and elections will be held for an 82-member legislative council and a president, as the Palestinians take charge of their daily lives.

The two sides are to begin what are expected to be difficult negotiations no later than May 1996 on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the volatile issue of East Jerusalem.

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Mayhew: No compromise on Northern Ireland disarming

SYDNEY (R) — Britain said Monday that peace in Northern Ireland would be advanced if Republican and loyalist guerrillas vowed not to be the first to resort to violence.

However, London would not soften its demand that paramilitaries disarm, Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told a luncheon in Sydney.

Sir Patrick said no-violence pledges would advance the British-ruled province's peace process but could not be a substitute for a surrender of illegal arms.

"It would be an advance I think," Sir Patrick said when asked if last month's declaration by loyalist guerrillas, that they would not resort to arms first, could be a way forward.

"But there really must not be any compromise... there cannot be any excuse at all, no justification whatever, for threatening to revert to the use of violence or for supporting the use of violence."

lence."

The peace process in Northern Ireland has reached an impasse over London's demand that paramilitary groups, including the Irish Republican Army (IRA), must start disarming before all-party peace talks can begin.

But Irish officials have suggested a way forward would be for the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein to match last month's pledge by loyalists not to be the first to resort to arms.

The IRA called a ceasefire one year ago but Sinn Fein says that giving up arms before talks would amount to a surrender. The IRA's loyalist foes also do not want to make the first move to hand over their weapons.

Sir Patrick said he hoped an international commission proposed by his government could be set up to oversee the scrapping of arms, but added his voice to criticism of Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams for warning of a possible return to violence.

Echoing remarks made by British and Irish prime ministers at the weekend, Sir Patrick asked rhetorically if Mr. Adams' comments were a threat of violence.

"What possible excuse can there be for a return to violence," he said, rejecting Mr. Adams' view that demands for a surrender of weapons before talks could reignite violence in Northern Ireland and sink the peace process.

If on the other hand a return to violence is actually being threatened, then that underlines the validity of the fears British people have."

Mr. Adams, making some of his gloomiest remarks on the peace process, told British radio Friday: "Architects of the process are pessimistic. We see the process as being doomed to failure."

British Prime Minister John Major said after talks with his Irish counterpart John Bruton in Spain Saturday that Mr. Adams had the power to ensure

there was no return to violence. Mr. Bruton said Mr. Adams' remarks were unhelpful.

Mr. Major and Mr. Bruton agreed to step up their efforts to push forward the peace process and intensify their contacts.

Sir Patrick, who spoke at the end of a six-day visit to Australia, said Britain was prepared to find solutions to the impasse, despite its firm stand on the need for paramilitaries to disarm. "We are not just sitting and looking at a road block but trying to find a way around it," he said.

Sir Patrick was due to leave Sydney Monday night for Auckland for several days before returning to London.

He is being accompanied by a small group of Northern Irish businessmen who want to boost exports and stimulate inward investment in the province in the wake of the ceasefires.

Police break up protest near U.S. embassy in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Police used water cannons to break up a protest near the U.S. embassy here Monday against a resumption of sales of U.S. military hardware to India's arch rival Pakistan, witnesses said.

About 300 people chanting anti-American and anti-Pakistani slogans were doused with water cannons after they broke through steel barricades and tried to storm the U.S. embassy, they said.

"USA down, down," the demonstrators shouted. The protest was organised by the National Students Union of India (NSUI), which claimed U.S. defence sales to Pakistan would upset the military balance in South Asia.

"Such mindless U.S. acts

shall further aggravate tensions and suspicions and worsen the already existing situation in the region," the NSUI said.

The Indian government has also condemned the U.S. Senate's vote last week to allow restricted supply of military hardware to Pakistan to

Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee described the U.S. Senate's decision as "unfortunate" and said it could lead to an "unintended and undesirable arms race."

The Senate voted to allow Pakistan to receive \$370 million worth of military equipment in a one-time waiver of a 1985 amendment freezing military aid to Islamabad if it did not put a verifiable cap on its nuclear programme.

The resolution was sponsored by Senator Hank Brown who said it was unfair that Islamabad had paid \$1.4 billion for military equipment in 1989 but had been prevented from receiving the shipment due to the sanctions.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the subcontinent's independence from Britain in 1947.

Two of the wars were over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir, while the third led to the division of Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh.

Western countries have voiced fears that the Kashmir conflict could trigger a nuclear war between Pakistan and India, which tested a nuclear device in 1974.

Advocate of Taiwan independence wins presidential nomination

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — An advocate of Taiwan independence — a former dissident who spent 22 years in exile — was chosen Sunday night to represent the main opposition in next year's presidential election.

Peng Ming-Min, 72, born

rival Hsu Hsin-Liang, former chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party, by 47,661 votes after the final contest in the runoff party election, open to voters island-wide.

Party Chairman Shih Ming-Teh said Mr. Peng received a total of 177,477 votes compared to 129,816 for Mr. Hsu.

The party is expected to formally announce Mr. Peng as its presidential candidate later this week.

Mr. Peng had spent 22 years abroad and Mr. Hsu, 54, was in exile for 10 years. Both had been branded subversives for promoting Taiwan's independence from mainland China. Both governments consider Taiwan a part of China, but each views the other as illegitimate.

The presidential election in March will be Taiwan's first by universal suffrage. In the past, presidents were chosen by a rubber stamp Electoral College dominated by the ruling Nationalists, who fled the Communist takeover of mainland China in 1949.

Mr. Peng and Mr. Hsu emerged as the front-runners after the party's primary election in June.

Mr. Peng, a former professor, was arrested by the government in 1964 and jailed for 13 months before leaving for Sweden and then the United States in 1970. He returned to Taiwan in 1992 and joined the DPP early this year.

Mr. Hsu, a disenchanted Nationalist, emigrated to the United States in 1979. He returned illegally in 1989 and was jailed on sedition charges, but was pardoned and released a year later.

ing us hell," said Kevin Mackey of the national grid company, Trans Power.

Generating company Electricorp said it had shut down part of the system of rivers and dams that supplies its hydro stations in the region, but there was no significant impact on supply.

Scientists said Ruapehu looked to be building up for a still mightier eruption.

In 1953, an eruption wrecked a railway bridge just before the arrival of a Wellington-Auckland express train, which plunged into a river with the loss of more than 150 lives.

Soldiers' families were evacuated from an army base at Waiouru, and a spokesman there said the military was in a high state of readiness for possible emergency operations. Three ski-fields were closed at the weekend.

New Zealand has a high density of active volcanoes and is also prone to earthquakes. At least 337 people have been killed in volcanic eruptions in the past 150 years.

It said aircraft were at risk from clouds of volcanic ash, hard to detect visually or by radar, which can damage engines and cause loss of power. Airports at Napier and Gisborne, some 200 kilometres away, were closed.

Civil Defence Authorities issued a general alert in the sparsely-populated region within a 100-kilometres radius of Ruapehu.

People were advised to disconnect water tanks to avoid contamination, to keep supplies of bottled water on hand and to listen out for Civil Defence warnings on the radio.

Falls of ash forced the closure of arterial route state highway one, the so-called Desert Road, and rained down on power transmission lines, causing voltage fluctuations that made lights and computer screens flicker as far south as Wellington.

Television pictures showed ash exploding in a vast black cloud from the 2,800-metre (9,184-ft) peak before slowly cascading downwards.

The Civil Aviation Authority, amending earlier restrictions, said all air space up to 30,000 ft (9,150 metres) had been declared a danger area over a large swath of the east-central North Island, with flights

had enveloped a family whose bitter feuds have been dragged through the media in the past.

"I think any illness brings a family closer together," Mrs. Reagan said in a written response to questions posed by the magazine about her husband's health.

"It (the disease) brings things into focus and should

reshuffle your priorities," she added.

Mr. Reagan, 84, has Alzheimer's disease, a degenerative illness with memory lapses as one of the main symptoms.

Newsweek said old hostilities had ended with the couple's daughter, Patti Davis, who once described her mother as a manipula-

tive pill-popper and her father as cold and remote.

Their relationship began to change before Mr. Reagan was diagnosed as having Alzheimer's disease. "He would write me notes," said Patti.

"He was trying to say to me, 'I'm 82, I'm 83, I'm not going to be here much longer. And I love you and

we love you,'" she added.

Patti's reconciliation with her mother was slow and sometimes painful, wrote Newsweek, but they had managed to confront the past together, including Patti's posing nude in Playboy magazine.

"We made our first tentative, baby steps towards reconciliation." Nancy Reagan

said.

Davis told the magazine she had found solace in her extended family," Newsweek wrote.

The magazine said the Reagan family had a pact of silence about the former president's condition adding that Nancy even refused to allow her husband to be photographed.



CARNAGE IN FRENCH VILLAGE: Firemen carry away the body of one of the people who were killed in a street of the French village of Cuers, near Toulon. A 16-year-old boy went berserk, killing 13 people and wounding 9 others before turning his gun on himself (AFP photo)

Suu Kyi says her release is no indication of change in Burma

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Burmese democratic activist Aung San Suu Kyi says her release from house arrest is no indication of change in Burma and that it should not result in an torrent of foreign investment and aid for the current junta.

"I am just one person who has been released, why should that make a difference?" Ms. Suu Kyi said in an interview published in the Sunday Star.

She added that there are still thousands of political prisoners in Burma, which chose her opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), to lead the country in 1990 elections.

The military government refused to recognise the election, and imprisoned Ms. Suu Kyi and thousands of other NLD members soon after. The 1991 Nobel Peace winner was released from house arrest earlier this year.

Britain is reported to be

the biggest investor in Burma up to March 1 this year with a total of \$647.76 Million, followed by France with \$465 million. The United States ranked fifth with \$203.19 million.

"I believe aid should be gradual and conditional on the process and pace of democratisation," she told the Sunday Star two weeks ago at her house in Rangoon.

The 51-year-old popular activist believes the military government is trying to pattern itself on the Indonesian political system, where the military is dominant.

She declined to say if this was acceptable to her NLD and added, "it is not for NLD to say. The question is whether it is acceptable to the people of Burma."

On the new constitution being drawn up, which might bar Burmese married to foreigners from holding political posts, she said, "some say it is aimed at me" — that would be a great pity because no national constitu-

tion should be written with one person in mind," she added.

Ms. Suu Kyi married a British academic 23 years ago, but held on to her Burmese nationality. She has refused to go overseas or to see him in Britain for fear the junta may not allow her back into the country.

Ms. Suu Kyi supported the proposed admission of Burma into the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) but noted that Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew has said that would not be immediately possible.

She said she prefers calling her country Burma and added India, China and Japan also have old names that are not indigenous and this did not detract from their greatness.

The junta uses the name Myanmar, which preferred by some ethnic groups within the country.

Hong Kong's Patten promises to battle on over passports

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten, under attack from both Britain and China for saying some 3.3 million Hong Kong people should be allowed to live in Britain, vowed Monday to continue his fight.

"It's for me to go on putting Hong Kong's case as governor of Hong Kong and I will continue to do so," Mr. Patten told reporters in the British colony, due to return to Chinese rule in less than 650 days.

About half of Hong Kong's six million people are eligible for British Dependent Territories Citizen (BDTC) passports, which function as travel documents but do not give their owners the right to settle in Britain.

China was angered by Hong Kong's calls for full British passports, which reached a crescendo after the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown against pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

Britain responded by granting full British passports to 50,000 heads of households.

But the demands on Britain have largely been forgotten as Hong Kong people turn to more hospitable shores ahead of the June 1997 handover of Hong Kong to China.

Over 1,000 people a week depart in search of the security of a foreign passport. Canada and Australia are the top two destinations.

China has again lost time in lashing out at Mr. Patten.

Reaction in Britain to Mr. Patten's call was almost entirely negative. "Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten has lost touch with reality," the British Sunday Express commented in an editorial.

"He appears to have no idea that people in Britain are deeply nervous of further waves of immigration. We have been kind enough to the industrious Hong Kong Chinese and more than 200,000 are already heading to Britain under a special deal. That is quite enough."

Tabloid says Diana had secret tryst

LONDON (AP) — A Sunday tabloid said Princess Diana had another "secret tryst" with married rugby player Will Carling, but he said it was just a coincidence they were at the same sports clinic. In August, Carling acknowledged a friendship with the princess. His wife of 15 months said she had determined it was no more than a friendship. The News Of The World carried front page pictures Sunday of the 34-year-old princess in work clothes and Carling in trousers and a shirt leaving the west London clinic separately, and on inside pages printed photos of them entering the building. Times printed below the pictures indicated they were in the same building for 26 minutes. Near the end of an accompanying report, the newspaper says "there's no suggestion of a physical relationship with Carling." Carling said Sunday that he had gone to the clinic for a pre-arranged session with his physiotherapist and did not see the princess. Press Association, the British national news agency, said sources close to Buckingham Palace suggested it was a chance meeting, and said newspaper reports of the incident were misleading.

The 51-year-old popular activist believes the military government is trying to pattern itself on the Indonesian political system, where the military is dominant. She declined to say if this was acceptable to her NLD and added, "it is not for NLD to say. The question is whether it is acceptable to the people of Burma."

On the new constitution being drawn up, which might bar Burmese married to foreigners from holding political posts, she said, "some say it is aimed at me" — that would be a great pity because no national constitu-

tion should be written with one person in mind," she added.

Ms. Suu Kyi supported the proposed admission of Burma into the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) but noted that Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew has said that would not be immediately possible.

She said she prefers calling her country Burma and added India, China and Japan also have old names that are not indigenous and this did not detract from their greatness.

The junta uses the name Myanmar, which preferred by some ethnic groups within the country.

Estefan questioned in deadly boating accident

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (R) — A speeding wave runner struck singer Gloria Estefan's powerboat Sunday and its driver tumbled into the boat's propeller to his death. Investigators questioned Estefan and her husband, music producer Emilio Estefan, who was at the helm of the couple's 11-metre motorboat at the time of the accident. Neither was injured. "We're trying to piece together what took place this afternoon," said Capt. Mike Lamphear of the Florida Marine Patrol. "It appears that the young man on the wave runner was attempting to jump the waves right behind the Estefans' boat, and fell into the propeller or outboard motor."

But Britain has tightened its immigration policy to prevent automatic entry to colonial subjects and Commonwealth subjects.

<p



French Gendarmes cover a body of one of the people who were murdered in a village street of Cuers, near Toulon (AFP photo)

French killer — a shy boy with Hitler pictures

CUERS, France (AFP) — A teenager who went berserk killing 13 people in a shooting spree was a shy boy who kept pictures of Hitler and neo-Nazi books in his bedroom, according to the mayor of this southern French village.

May Guy Guigou said Gendarmes had found the books and pictures at the boy's home at Solles-Pont, a village six kilometres from here.

Eric Parenti, who committed suicide with his own gun Sunday, was a taciturn loner without boy or girlfriends, villagers in Solles-Pont said.

"He was a rather introverted pupil, secretive and shy. He visibly avoided contacts with his comrades," said one of Eric's former teachers at a local school.

The teenager first shot

dead his mother Marie-Jeanne, stepfather Yves Bichet and 11-year-old half-brother and then beat them over the head with a hammer, police said.

The bodies were found overnight Saturday by another half-brother, Jean-Yves.

The teenager, a pupil from a technical high school in the Mediterranean port of Toulon, then walked the six kilometres to this village and fired on anything that moved.

Lieutenant-Colonel Marcel Kapfer, who heads the Gendarmerie (militarised police) in the southern Var Department, said Monday that two weapons were found near Eric's body: A .22 rifle belonging to his stepfather and a .22 pistol, along with a box of cartridges.

Two others died as they tried to withdraw cash from an automatic bank teller.

It was Gendarmes moved in to try to halt the carnage that Eric turned the gun on himself, firing a bullet into his head.

Seven of the victims died on the spot. One of them was a 17-year-old classmate, Alan Guillemette, who was shot in the head when he answered the door after Eric Parenti rang the doorbell.

Shopkeeper Frederic Baris said of the boy: "He didn't look particularly worked up. I saw him walking calmly, without hurrying, holding a rifle."

Cafe owner Guy Sintest said the boy was "very calm. He looked as if he was out hunting. He put the gun to his shoulder, took aim and opened fire."

On Monday, the number of Eric's victims rose to 13 when one of the wounded died in hospital.

The latest victim was a 59-year-old man who was hospitalised in a coma in the southern port of Marseille Sunday, hospital sources said.

The death left six wounded, two of them very seriously ill.

Rwanda wants deeds not words from U.N.

KIGALI (R) — Rwanda Monday urged the United Nations to round up the leaders of last year's genocide instead of organising another conference to discuss the refugee crisis.

"The United Nations must first ensure that planners of the genocide are arrested wherever they reside in foreign countries and brought to justice," presidential aide Colonel Frank Mugambage told state radio.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali sent his special envoy Jose Luis Jesus to Rwanda last week to organise a regional conference on the repatriation of two million Rwandan refugees languishing in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi.

Zaire this month promised United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, that it would arrest suspected killers on its soil but U.N. officials say it has yet to start doing so.

Senior diplomats said Rwanda has also asked the Tanzanian government to round up suspects on its soil.

The diplomats said the Rwandan government recently handed Tanzania a list of more than 400 extremist Hutus living in refugee camps in western UNHCR until the end of

Tanzania and demanded their arrests.

Earlier this month, the deputy prosecutor on a U.N. tribunal set up to try the ringleaders said trials could begin by the end of the year if the suspects were brought back to Rwanda.

Judge Honore Rakotomana said the first indictments could be issued in November but the tribunal's success depended on co-operation from countries where the ringleaders have sought refuge, which include France, the United States and Belgium as well as European and African capitals.

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The diplomats said the Rwandan government recently handed Tanzania a list of more than 400 extremist Hutus living in refugee camps in western UNHCR until the end of

this year to send home all refugees on its soil.

In a sign of Zaire's growing frustration with the refugees, Rwandan radio said Zairean authorities Monday gave Rwandan Hutus living in the border town of Goma until the end of next week to leave the town and go back to their camps.

Diplomats however say a massacre this month of more than 100 Hutsu villagers by Tutsi soldiers in northwestern Rwanda has made it unlikely the refugees will go home in the near future.

The killings in Kanama village dealt a blow to U.N. efforts for repatriation and raised fears the Tutsi-led army is out of control and hungry for retribution against the Hutu population.

The present government took power in July after Rwanda Patriotic Front guerrillas, based around the Tutsi minority, overthrew the Hutu regime which orchestrated the genocide.

Karachi peace talks heads for deadlock

KARACHI (AFP) — The Pakistan government and main opposition in strife-torn Karachi go into new talks Tuesday with hopes fading for chances of finding a quick solution to the bloodshed in the country's largest city.

Tension was high in the city Monday at the funeral of two Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) activists killed in a gunbattle with security forces Sunday.

Their deaths led to a new eruption of violence and at least 15 people were killed during the day.

The MQM and government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto go into their tenth round of talks since July in an increasingly hostile atmosphere, analysts say.

The MQM has accused the government of staging the gunbattles in which the two activists were killed and has stepped up charges that the authorities are carrying out extra-judicial executions.

The Mohajir group, which

is demanding greater democracy and more government positions, also says the government is being "insincere" in the peace talks on ways to stop violence that has cost the lives of more than 1,400 people this year.

The government is meanwhile pursuing its drive against the MQM.

Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar said an estimated 400 "terrorists" had been killed or arrested in recent months since the government intensified a security clampdown.

Hundreds of people are rounded up in lightning raids, a practice that has the MQM up in arms. Most people are usually released after questioning, but the MQM says the entire government policy is racist. "Mohajirs are being targeted simply because they are Mohajirs," said Shoib Bokhari, an MQM leader.

"They are now harassing our women and old people." He said female relatives of MQM activists are being harassed and even tortured.

Mr. Dehlvi says the MQM is continuing with the talks to avoid being accused of opting for violence rather than negotiation. He has repeatedly denied government claims that the party is behind most of the deaths.

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"They are now harassing our women and old people." He said female relatives of MQM activists are being harassed and even tortured.

French heavyweights return to political scene after elections

PARIS (AFP) — French political heavyweights Edouard Balladur, Michel Rocard and Charles Pasqua made a successful comeback in parliamentary by-elections and a Senate poll Sunday.

Former Prime Minister Balladur, defeated by Mr. Jacques Chirac in presidential elections last May, was reelected as a deputy to the National Assembly in a by-election in what had been considered a foregone conclusion in his Paris constituency.

His campaign spokesman, Nicolas Sarkozy, former budget minister, regained his seat as deputy in another safe constituency at Neuilly, west of the capital.

In addition to Mr. Sarkozy, 10 other former ministers in the Balladur government that stepped down in May have been returned to sit in parliament when it reopens next October following a series of by-elections that began in June.

The only failure among Mr. Balladur supporters standing Sunday was that of former Cooperation Minister Bernard Debelle, defeated in the central

Indre-Et-Loire Department by a Socialist.

Under French election law, ministers must give up their parliamentary seats to substitutes, but the latter must surrender their seats when ministers lose their portfolios, provoking by-elections.

The blunt-speaking Mr. Pasqua, who sided with Mr. Balladur in the presidential elections, was meanwhile re-elected a senator in his Hauts-de-Seine stronghold west of Paris.

Centre-right Senate Speaker René Monory, second-ranking in the state hierarchy after President Chirac, was comfortably re-elected in the Vienne Department, eastern France.

And Mr. Rocard, who was ousted as Socialist Party leader after his party's disastrous showing in European elections in June, 1993, was also elected to the Senate.

The Socialists, looking for signs of a turnaround in their fortunes since their trouncing in 1993 legislative elections and though better-than-expected defeat of their candidate, Lionel Jospin in the presi-

dential poll, saw their party gain eight seats in the Senate elections, against two gains for the neo-Gaullist Rally For The Republic.

The Communist Party ended all square but the centre-right Union for French Democracy, a partner in the government, lost several Senate seats.

The French left made considerable gains in Paris, winning five out of the 12 seats that had to be filled in the capital.

The Communists, who previously had no seats in the capital, gained one, with four going to the Socialists who previously held only

Spokesmen for the government parties put down the result as an "automatic consequence" of the municipal results.

Voting took place for 117 seats in Sunday's Senate elections.

Senators are elected for a nine-year term, with a third of the chamber being renewed every three years, by an Electoral College of 50,696 municipal and regional councillors.

There were a record 696 candidates for Senate seats, including rivals from within the components of the government headed by Alain Juppe.

Mr. Juppe can expect sniping on his economic performance from Mr. Balladur and his supporters, who also include former Defence Minister Francois Leotard.

Since taking office both he

and Mr. Chirac have

plunged in the opinion polls, condemned for their apparent inability to resolve France's economic and unemployment problems, and the decision to resume nuclear weapons tests.

China accuses U.S. of covert support for Tibetan independence

BEIJING (AP) — China, in an official editorial, accused the U.S. government Sunday of covertly supporting "independence for Chinese-ruled Tibet."

The Xinhua News Agency commentary marked the second time in four days China has criticised President Bill Clinton's Sept. 13 meeting with the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

"Time and again Washington has publicly admitted that Tibet is part of China and declared that it will not recognise an independent Tibet," Xinhua said in the editorial carried in several major newspapers.

"But covertly the U.S. government and the Congress have been backing the separatist activity of the Dalai Lama for a long time," Xinhua said.

The news agency did not identify any covert support beyond the Dalai Lama's well-publicised meetings with Mr. Clinton, this year and twice previously, and with members of Congress.

The United States briefly aided anti-Chinese Tibetan guerrillas in the late 1950s and 1960s.

Xinhua's strident tone contrasts with the tentative, but positive steps both sides are taking to improve relations after months of confrontation.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is due to meet his U.S. counterpart, Warren Christopher, in New York this week for talks on a possible summit between Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

On Friday, China ended a three-month delay and approved Mr. Clinton's choice of former Sen. James Sasser as ambassador to Beijing, pending Senate confirmation.

A day before the decision was announced, the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily called Mr. Clinton's meeting with the Dalai Lama "a serious political incident."

As in the People's Daily commentary, Xinhua accused the U.S. government of playing the "Tibet card" at a time when the Dalai Lama remains unknown and the government is evasive on the subject.

Karachi's violence is now also cutting a deeper scar on the national economy, financial experts say.

The MQM calls regular strikes, which it says is a democratic right. While figures on the losses suffered fluctuate widely, tax receipts and export earnings are down by millions of rupees, said one expert who added that "roughly 70 percent of tax revenues are generated by Karachi."

"Investor confidence is down. Every time there is a strike or violence in Karachi, it hits international headlines and has a negative effect on foreign investors," said another financial consultant.

Typhoon sweeps southwest Japan; 3 missing

TOKYO (AP) — An American high school student and two Japanese men were missing in swollen rivers after typhoon Ryan brought heavy rain and winds of up to 168 kph (100 mph) to southwest Japan Sunday.

Police also reported five people injured, more than

950 houses flooded and 17 houses hit by other damage. Power failures caused by storm damage cut electricity to about 17,400 homes.

Police identified the missing American as David Stillwell, 17, son of Master Sgt. Gary Stillwell of Ohio, who is stationed at the U.S. military base in Iwakuni, Japan.

720 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

U.S. Marines rescued two other American students

from the nearby Nishiki River, swollen by typhoon rains,

said a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Americans apparently were playing near the river, he said.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Remember them, prosecutors will tell jurors.

Remember Nicole and Ron — a slender blonde in a black halter dress, a handsome young man in jeans and a tailored shirt — and the violence visited upon them. Remember the river of blood.

For prosecutors, the challenge of final arguments in the O.J. Simpson murder trial begins Tuesday with resurrecting the victim whose memory has faded in and out throughout the trial.

For defence attorneys, summation offers the chance to turn jurors' eyes in another direction — toward the racism, lies and frame-up allegations that constitute the heart of the defence.

Yes, remember the victims, the defence will say. O.J. Simpson remembers, too. He grieves for the mother of his two young children, and he did not kill her.

Defence attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. is likely to return to the themes of his opening statement, delivered eight months ago: Simpson was set up, victimised. And he will seek to convince jurors that the evidence is such a mess it would be a crime to convict Simpson.

"Johnnie Cochran will be over the top," predicted Loyola University law Professor Laurie Levenson. "He will be waving the flag and speaking from the mount."

Emotion will work better for the defence than the prosecution, Prof. Levenson said, although summoning images of the victims is key to the presentation.

"The victims have gotten lost," said Prof. Levenson, who has spent many days of the trial in the courtroom. "We have spent a lot of time with barking dogs and (DNA) alleles and police officers. It's time to get back to the victims."

Simpson, the former U.S. football star, is charged with the June 12, 1994, slayings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. They were slashed to death outside their Brentwood condominium as their two children slept inside.

It is a case with no eyewitness and no murder weapon. The evidence is circumstantial, and the way jurors see it is key to whether they can convict.

The prosecutor, who carries the burden of proof, has a more daunting task than the defence. That's why prosecutors get to speak twice — presenting their case and then rebutting whatever the defence says.

The judge declined to set time limits for the presentations, and he agreed to allow some visual aids, such as videotaped snippets of testimony. The prosecutors' argument will be the last that jurors hear before they retire to begin deliberations.

"You have O.J. Simpson on trial here, (prosecutor) Marcia Clark has to give the closing argument of a lifetime," Prof. Levenson said.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 607161
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

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Leap towards peace

THE AGREEMENT reached Sunday between the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli government might not be to the liking of hardliners on both sides. But it certainly will not be the last between them.

It goes without saying that many aspects of the intractable conflict between the two peoples need to be resolved. The accord that was initialised in Taba by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is another significant building bloc, however, in the quest for a final settlement to the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It represents a point of no return in the negotiations that should ultimately lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state.

The Rabin government's consent to pull out the Israeli army from most Palestinian population centres signifies an admission that Israeli troops were an occupying army and that Israel is prepared to end that occupation. It brings to an end a direct and daily confrontation between Israeli troops and the Palestinian people. It provides the Palestinians for the first time in 28 years with the opportunity to run their own lives by themselves.

Had it not been for the extremists on both sides this agreement might not have been reached. On the Israeli side, someone like Ariel Sharon, the former defence minister, vowed that if the Likud regained power in the 1996 elections it would revoke the agreement to "return Jewish control over these areas" in the West Bank. On the Palestinian side, opponents of Mr. Arafat in Palestine and elsewhere in the Arab World were quick to accuse him of a sell-out. Radio Damascus said the accord "has been concluded at the expense of the Palestinian side — the problem of Jerusalem and the Palestinian cause will remain unresolved."

We believe that under the circumstances both the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships are taking courageous steps on the right track for peace between the two peoples. Mr. Arafat and his negotiators are leaving no stone unturned in order to wrest concessions from a strong and powerful adversary. Neither he nor his ministers are giving up on their demand for full Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and in accordance with U.N. resolutions. He and his people have one goal, a Palestinian state in all of the West Bank and Gaza, and so far, they have not compromised on that goal.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin and his colleagues in the Labour government are edging closer towards meeting Palestinian aspirations, because they realise that unless Palestinian national goals are met real peace will not be achieved in the Middle East. Mr. Rabin, as he alluded in a recent interview, is slowly but surely trying to bring the Israeli public into accepting a historical compromise over the land of Palestine. What preoccupies him at the moment is his determination to win next year's election in order to complete what he sees as his mission of bringing peace to Israelis.

What is needed now is to expedite the implementation of the agreement on the ground to make it difficult for Mr. Sharon and like-minded people to even attempt to reverse it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday urged the government to implement recommendations made by Parliament concerning higher education in Jordan, saying that they would help the country to avoid confusion in university enrollment in the coming years. Bassam Emoush, who is a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said Parliament members held lengthy debates over the acceptance of students in universities to pursue their higher studies, but so far the government has failed to implement any of the recommendations passed at the end of the debates. It is regrettable that the government, which pushed to parliament draft laws needed for the Amman economic summit and secured Parliament's approval of them, has put aside or shelved Parliament's recommendations on higher education, argued the writer. He said that Parliament has recommended that state universities open evening classes, allow the private universities to accept more students and ask them to reduce their fees and link the numerous community colleges with state or public universities to allow college graduates to continue their studies in these universities.

A WRITER in Al Dustour called on Arab countries to participate actively in the upcoming economic summit in Amman so as to ensure no Israeli hegemony on Arab economies. Taher Adwan said that poor Arab presence in the coming meeting in Amman is bound to open the door to Israel to achieve its objectives at the expense of Arab interests. Some Arabs have been claiming that Jordan was against reconciliation among Arab countries but the fact that Amman has sent out invitations to all Arab states to take part in the conference next month and that it has been holding close contacts and exchanging visits with the leaders of the Arab countries in the past few years are sufficient proof that the Kingdom is serious in its efforts to end Arab differences and re-establish solidarity among Arab leaders and peoples, added the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

Clean bathrooms, garbage, civil society and Arab public space

By Rami G. Khouri

SEVERAL GREAT mysteries routinely perplex me and many others who observe the Arab political scene in relation to the rest of the world: Why do Arabs often throw rubbish out of their car windows? Why is it so hard for Arab culture to provide clean bathrooms in public places? Why do we find it so difficult to adopt "democratic" systems and "civil society" structures similar to those in the Western industrialised democracies?

These may appear, at first sight, as three separate and totally unrelated issues. I would argue that they are deeply intertwined, and that they may help us to understand the deeper forces that drive modern Arab civic and political culture. The more that I am involved in regional and international discussion about political culture and governance systems in the Ara World, the more I find myself dissatisfied by the increasingly common Western and Arab inclination to blame most of our problems on the fact that we lack "democratic" and "civil society" structures.

These are essentially Western concepts that emerged in a post-Enlightenment European and North American context. As they have been defined by the broad Western experience of the last several hundred years (actually, less than a hundred years, if giving women full voting rights is a component of democracy), these concepts have taken on a particular meaning that is specifically rooted in the Western cultural experience.

Democracy and civil society as we know them today both affirm and demand two crucial concepts that define a person's place in the world: the concept of individual rights, and the concept of public space. Civil society tends to incorporate all of the principles and systems that we associate with modern, Western-style democracy: elections, political parties, total freedom of expression in the press and other fora, private organisations that work for political goals, an independent judiciary, separation of religion from state, and separation of the family realm from the public governance realm.

Most of these and other fundamental Western principles of civil society are not clearly visible in the Ara World because Arab cultural traditions and social values hold very different beliefs about the concepts of individual rights and public space. Civil society assumes that there is a public space in which all individuals have equal rights that are guaranteed by the laws of the state; this further assumes that the citizens had some meaningful say in how their state was formed, and how its laws are formulated and enforced. Most of these concepts sit at the heart of "civil society" do not fully apply in Arab culture as they do in the West.

The "public space" concept may hold many of the keys to resolving some of the riddles of modern Arab political culture and individual behaviour, for most of our ailments reflect public events, while most of our achievements are in, and from the private realm. I would suggest that there is

no such thing "as public space" in Arab culture, and therefore the very concept of "civil society" itself may not be applicable to us. Here is where the garbage and the bathrooms take on important political as well as environmental significance.

Every time I see an Arab person throw garbage out of a car window, or even defecate in public (such as in an archaeological site or a public park), I do not necessarily get angry and accuse that person of being uncivilised. Rather, I ask myself: Why does that person act like this in public; while at the same time that same person is deeply courteous, sensitive and generous within the confines of his or her own home, neighbourhood or community space?

The important, full question that must be asked is not why do most Arabs litter their streets and countryside; it is,

rather, why do most Arabs spread their garbage and feces in public, but offer only generosity and hospitality in private? Why does private graciousness coexist so easily with public garrishness?

The bathrooms question falls within the same category. Why is it so difficult for modern Arab culture to maintain clean public bathrooms, even at places like international airports, while cleanliness is such an important, even sacred, value within the private realm of the family and the community? Other riddles of Arab life can also be resolved or explained by this same measure. For example, why do Arabs so often disregard the public law or courtesies while driving their cars, but in private (with their families or neighbours) they are models of respect and decorum?

I was reminded of this only a few days ago on my way back from southern Jordan to Amman on the desert highway. I was driving right at the speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour, but was routinely passed by an array of public sector vehicles that must have been driving at least 130 kilometres per hour (these included, among others, a minister's official car, without the minister, and an army station wagon). I wondered to myself: Why do these guardians, enforcers and symbols of the law so nonchalantly disregard the law?

The answer may have much to do with how these and other Arab individuals relate to the very concept of "public space." The manner in which people behave "in public" provides important clues to their deeper political values and cultural identities. I suspect that Arabs do not at all relate to the concept of "public space," because public space is not yet seen to be a valid concept in our cultures. We seem structurally or temporally unable to provide clean public bathrooms because the very idea of a "public realm" is still somewhat fuzzy. The public space that does exist has been almost totally appropriated by the two central actors in modern Arab culture — the state and the tribe. Between the state and the tribe, there is almost no space for anything substantive in our modern Arab

cultures. Anything that takes place in society that has meaning relates either to the state or the tribe — i.e., to the government's dominant control of power and its symbols in the fields of finance, employment, religion, pan-Arab national mythology, history and security and the means of violence, or to private families' and tribes' spheres of influence. The small zones that fall in neither the territory of the state nor of the tribe — the public bathrooms, the open road — are perceived by most Arab individuals as zones of no responsibility.

This is the twilight zone of modern Arab identity — a public space where everyone is anonymous, where the rules of civility of tribe and state do not reach, and therefore where everyone can do as he or she pleases: Throw garbage out the car window, defecate in any convenient patch, drive any speed you desire, and be rude, aggressive and selfish behind the wheel of your car. The moment you are back within the space of the tribe or state, however, this garrish behaviour stops, and you return to civility, politeness and strict order.

I would suggest, therefore, that we approach the discussion of democratisation and civil society in the Ara World in more realistic and profound manner than merely parroting Western concepts that do not easily fit into our social norms and cultural traditions. I believe, however, that there are parallel Arab concepts that serve the same purpose in our society as democratisation and civil society serve in Western society. It will require much hard work to explore these indigenous Arab traditions and to modernise them in a manner that allows us to develop a concept of public good that goes slightly beyond roadside weather thermometers and advertisements for four different kinds of deep fried chicken.

Our great challenge since the late 19th century remains the same as it has always been: to stop measuring ourselves by the standards of the industrialised Western democracies, and rather to work for a modern Arab society whose decency, productivity and dynamism reflect a combination of our indigenous values and those Western or Eastern or Southern traditions that we can absorb and adapt rationally and meaningfully. Every time I use a filthy public bathroom in the Ara World, I remember this fact, and it gets me through the experience with a renewed commitment to tap our strengths, rather than merely to amplify our dilemmas.

The garbage and the feces we suffer in our public spaces are not only irritants. They are also challenges, and intriguing clues. In between the frenzied rounds of our modern Arab fried chicken jamboree, we would do well to remember this fact, and perhaps even to act upon its inherent dare to be better than we are, and as good as we can be, and once were.

The vanishing trick

After its poll disaster, will China decide to teach Hong Kong a lesson or accept the voters' will? Andrew Higgins believes a hardening of attitudes is the likely result

FOR THE first time in weeks, tellers at the Shanghai Bank of Commerce, ticket agents at China Travel Service and staff at dozens of other Beijing-controlled firms in Hong Kong could look out of their windows yesterday without meeting the gaze of solid, sober-looking men in dark suits. They had been there throughout a campaign for the most democratic election in 154 years of British colonial rule. But Tuesday, before the final results had been counted, they vanished.

The faces, emblazoned across posters and leaflets, belonged to the candidates China hoped would be sitting in the territory's Legislative Council (Legco) when Britain pulls out in approximately 651 days. The posters have been hastily removed. The question now is what else went with them?

After engaging itself, albeit indirectly, in a democratic election campaign like never before, China confronts a humiliating result — a resounding victory for its most vociferous critics. It must decide whether to teach Hong Kong a lesson or to accept the lesson given by Hong Kong voters.

"Given their track record, it seems more likely that they will blame others, not themselves," said Joseph Cheng, a pundit at Hong Kong University. A perilous paradox of last Sunday's poll is that it will probably strengthen the hand of those in Beijing most determined to resist the democratic temptation.

A hint of this was the angry response of a leading pro-China candidate, Cheng Kai-nam, to the news that he and fellow members of the Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB) had been trounced: "The Hong Kong people will have to pay for this. We warned we would like to have different voices in Legco."

Their strategy of trying to beat the democrats at their own game threw into disarray, the first response of China's loyal foot-soldiers in Hong Kong was to turn to no less an authority than

Deng Xiaoping, 91-year-old, generally thought to be senile but still an oracle to be consulted in moments of crisis.

"Would it be good for Hong Kong to hold general elections?" an editorial in the Beijing-controlled newspaper Ta Kung Pao quoted Deng asking in 1987. "I don't think so." The problem with direct elections, he explained, was they did not automatically bring victory to the right candidates — "people who love the motherland and love Hong Kong." This important warning, the newspaper seemed to suggest, had been forgotten.

China's standard-bearer, the DAB, won just two seats by direct elections. It picked up another four in so-called "functional constituencies." "It has been completely disgraced and discredited. It had money, organisation and links with the working class. It had everything but credibility," said Professor Cheng.

Meanwhile, the pro-democracy camp led by Martin Lee, branded as a subversive by Beijing, won 16 of 20 directly elected seats and, thanks to gains by allies in various indirect contests, could control half of the 60-seat chamber.

"One can only hope the Chinese government will accept the verdict of the Hong Kong people... The most important message is that Hong Kong does not want a spineless government," said a triumphant Lee at the headquarters of his Democratic Party.

"We are very happy. This certainly quelled all doubts about whether we continue to enjoy the support of the people of Hong Kong."

There were no celebrations across Victoria Harbour at China's de facto embassy in the territory, the New China (Xinhua) News Agency. Its only comment was an official dispatch condemning the entire election as "unfair and unreasonable," the result of unacceptable political reforms by Governor Chris Patten.

While senior Xinhua officials had spoken publicly during the campaign,

they last week retreated into anonymity. An unnamed spokesman denounced the reforms as "unilaterally patched together by the British Hong Kong authorities with a view to staying beyond mid-1997."

While insisting "the main trend" in Hong Kong remains "hope for a smooth transition and love for the motherland," it said China could not possibly let the results stand. Beijing has repeatedly vowed to scrap the political structure set in place by Patten as soon as it takes over at the stroke of midnight on June 30, 1997.

During the campaign, however, various pro-China hopefuls suggested that if they were elected in sufficient numbers, Beijing might allow the new legislature to effectively serve out its four year term. For reasons of face, they said, it might declare the old legislature defunct but would appoint all or most of elected members to a new "provisional" chamber.

Such a hope is now doomed.

The provisional legislature which Hong Kong hoped would be a carbon copy of the elected legislature is due to be named sometime next year, along with various other "shadow" power centres.

By the end of 1996, every

level of Hong Kong government will co-exist with a Chinese-named successor.

Patten will be shadowed by the chief executive designate, the post-colonial government.

"I wish those tycoons

whom Beijing likes to talk to so much, because they only like to talk to the rich, would speak out for what Hong Kong really wants," said Emily Lau, one of the pro-democracy camp's victors.

"It is bad for business, bad for prosperity."

The issue is not whether

Hong Kong is pro- or anti-

Chinese, she said, but

whether its people are

allowed to think for them-

selves. "Most people in Hong Kong are Chinese. They are pro-Chinese. There is nothing wrong with that. What Beijing means by pro-Chinese, though, is the absence of any independent thinking." It is precisely the threat posed by such independence, however, that Deng had in mind when he warned against elections in 1987.

dancer and a neo-imperialist bent on prolonging British influence. The results of the election will confirm the conspiracy theory popular in China that sees his entire reform project as a plot to booby-trap Hong Kong politics against China.

Indeed, it has a point when it points out that Britain waited until 1991, deep into the twilight of colonial rule, before allowing direct legislative elections. And only in 1994 did Patten push through his own plans to make the Legislative Council an entirely elected body.

Britain allowed Hong Kong to hold its first election in 1888, but it was a contest democracy for the next century. The only posts up for election were seats on the Sanitary Board.

Only 167 of the 669

eligible to vote (fluency

in English was a primary qualification)

thought it worth bothering.

No doubt Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, due in London at the end of the month, will remind ministers here of this fact.

But the pressure for more

democracy is now coming

not from London or Patten

but from Hong Kong itself,

though not from the

businessmen who took up

the Great Hall of the Peo-

ple in Beijing to nod sagely

— and sign contracts.

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King: Jordan will continue its endeavours to create a model of social, economic and political stability

FOLLOWING IS the full text of the address which His Majesty King Hussein gave to the European Parliament in Strasbourg Monday.

**Mr. President of the European Parliament,
Mr. President of the Council,
Mr. President of the Commission,
Distinguished members of parliament,**

IT IS once again both a privilege and a pleasure to address the Parliament of Europe. It offers me the occasion to share my thoughts with you on relations between Europe and my country, about what they have been in the past and what we hope they will become in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my good friend, Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the European Parliament, for inviting me to address this distinguished body, and for his leadership and contribution to Euro-Mediterranean understanding.

Much has changed in the Middle East. On balance, the changes have been positive; although the consequences of past events are still with us, there are new factors of maturity, realism, determination and vision which brighten our horizons.

It is perhaps too early to assess the impact of Europe on our region in the 20th century. We are still experiencing the consequences of two devastating European wars and their repercussions on our lives. The major consequence of the World War I was a new map of our region drawn up by the victors. This map drew frontiers where there were none before; established a number of new states and disrupted patterns of economic, social and family life, which had formed through four centuries of Ottoman rule.

In our case, the dislocation of our former status

took the form of a separation between the two sides of the River Jordan, which geographically and historically formed the Holy Land. The truncation of the Holy Land, and its political separation from its northern extensions to Lebanon and Syria, was carried one step further with the creation of Israel in 1948.

Into the former cohesion of our social, economic and cultural life was introduced a new element. Growing tensions between the incoming settlers and the indigenous population led to war, the mass displacement of the Palestinian people and the festering of political and ideological extremism which has plagued the entire Middle East for decades.

My grandfather, King Abdullah and my great uncle King Faisal of Syria, and later Iraq, had hoped that the aspirations of the Arab inhabitants of the lands liberated during the Great Arab Revolt of 1916, and of the Jewish settlers in Palestine, might be compatible, provided certain conditions could be satisfied.

This was not to be: Rivalries and suspicions between the European players in our region, and the catastrophic situation of the Jews of Europe combined to end the dream of my forefathers. The unity of the Arab lands was frustrated and the Jewish state of Israel was born in violence.

This was the situation which I inherited when I ascended to the Throne of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and which has challenged us for more than 40 years. It was clear to me that my duty was to exert every possible effort to spare my people the suffering and cruelty of war and to bequeath them a legacy

of peace. On Oct. 26, 1994, when Jordan and Israel signed their peace treaty, we did not make peace only with Israel; we also made it with ourselves, confident in our belief that this was the only way we could break out of the cycle of violence which has devastated our lands and our peoples.

Our vision and purpose in making peace with Israel was not just to end the state of war. The equation of "no war and no peace," which had defined the relations of Jordan and other Arab states with Israel for 25 years, had proved futile.

We decided to make a warm peace with Israel — a peace which makes it possible for our two peoples to tear down the fears which separated them for too long: to do business; to make friends with each other if they wish; to benefit from what each has to offer; and to work together to create a better life for themselves and for all those who live in the same region and share the same hopes.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty marked the end of one period in our history, and the dawning of another. It is the first step towards the restoration of harmony in the Holy Land, which God ordained, but which man disrupted. The benefits to both parties are equally beneficial: Jordan, which had been virtually landlocked, now, once again, has access to the Mediterranean; Israel now, can also look beyond the previous confines to live in a region of peace.

But in making peace with Israel, and in determining to live with Israel on terms of mutual trust, security and cooperation, we did not forget or neglect the other vital component of the Holy Land: that of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights on their own land.

We believe that the Palestinian people have the right, in this new era of peace, to enjoy the same security and the same hoped-for prosperity on their own land. We will

continue to support them, as we have through all these years, in all their legitimate goals, and in all their legitimate activities.

The realisation of the Palestinians' rights to self-determination, to return or compensation, and to a decent life are legitimate aims, we share with them many other concerns such as access to water, the environment, the settlement of their refugees and displaced populations; and we share with them, and not only with them, our concern for the future of holy Jerusalem.

For members of the three Abrahamic faiths on every continent, the old city of Jerusalem is the goal of pilgrimage and the pole of prayer. Mosques, churches and temples each bear witness to the central place of the Holy City in the thoughts and visions of believers around the world.

What is the real purpose of peace? In our view, it is to promote the security and the prosperity of peoples. Without security, there can be no assured prosperity; and without prosperity, there can be no assured security. In the modern history of the Middle East, there have been many attempts to erect security systems and arrangements, either between external powers and regional states, or between regional states themselves. None of these arrangements were effective in preventing wars and conflicts in the Middle East.

In that nightmare scenario between the invasion of Kuwait and the end of the war in the Gulf, I did my best to convince the international community to help us to contain and solve the problem within an Arab context. I was not successful, and the sequence of events before, during, and after the war confirmed my worst fears. The security of the supply of oil was, at least temporarily, assured; but the security of the region was seriously jeopardised. The destabilisation of Iraq does not contribute to the stability, security or peace in the Middle East; on the contrary, it poses a serious threat to them all.

We cannot look with indifference as the plight of the people of Iraq grows more and more tragic with every renewal of the Security Council's imposition of sanctions. As their misery increases, I cannot, nor can any Jordanian or other

region, and for the strategic relationship and links between this region and the whole world, which imposes additional burdens on all parties."

Prince Hassan: "God willing, we will make the order together in a manner conforming to and serving our Arab, Jordanian, Palestinian and international goals. But our hopes are great, and by Abu Ammar's care and the cooperation of his assisting team, more will be achieved in bilateral coordination. Abu Ammar referred to the twins and twinning, and both terms are right.... We hope that Abu Ammar is the twin."

Q: "Your Royal Highness, in your first meeting at the White House in 1993 with President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, you said that the meeting was not a photo opportunity but was a means to reach comprehensive and just peace in the region and removing disparities among the peoples of the region. Did what you said then come true with the signing of the Taiba agreement and other agreements in the peace process... are we on the way towards achieving comprehensive and just peace in the region?"

Prince Hassan: "Regarding the summit, it is not a Jordanian summit. Jordan is hosting it and we are honoured to have the world's economic blocs meeting on Jordanian soil. But I am really hopeful that this summit will turn into another step pushing towards rehabilitating the region's economy on the basis of social solidarity, equality and justice and interest in major projects. Naturally, the summit is a continuation of what was started at

Samir Barhoum contributed to this report

tories must have a genuine commitment to all that peace implies: the free movement of people, goods and ideas across frontiers, the shared commitment to resolve common problems, and to respect one another's interests.

There must be a shared consensus of common values, respect for human rights and basic freedoms, equality between all citizens, and, above all, the right of children to food, clothing, education and freedom from fear.

What is the real purpose of peace? In our view, it is to promote the security and the prosperity of peoples.

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In the last quarter of 1995, an opportunity will be available to the govern-

ments and institutions of Europe to take part in the construction of a new Middle East. The Middle East and North Africa summit, to be held in Amman on Oct. 29 this year, will attempt to translate into concrete economic terms some of the ideas and aspirations of the Casablanca economic summit, which preceded it last year.

A further "window of opportunity" will be the Barcelona conference scheduled for November of this year, the main theme of which will be a Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

We hope that the Barcelona conference, which Jordan will attend, will pay special attention to the countries of the eastern Mediterranean. This area is the natural bridge between Europe and the Middle East. The conference can open a door for Europe into a region of vast natural resources and important markets; and it can open a window for our region onto the economic and financial landscape of Europe.

The choice of Amman for the second Middle East and North Africa summit reflects, I believe, a growing consensus among international financial institutions and business corporations that Jordan now offers a favourable location and climate for public funding and private investment in projects on both the Jordanian and the regional scene.

Jordan's treaty of peace with Israel paves the way for the emergence of a new and potentially powerful economic bloc, which would include Palestine and Egypt. Projects involving the cooperation of these four entities will be presented at the Amman summit. We hope that these will ultimately provide examples for other Middle East countries of the benefits of cooperative and integrated development and reaping the tangible rewards of peace. Such a bloc would provide markets, manpower and technological resources which would attract not only

European, American and Asian investment, but also some of the Arab capital, private and public, which now finds havens outside the region.

Jordan will continue its endeavour to create a model of social, political and economic stability which, we hope, will act as a positive example.

The Jordanian National Charter, ratified in 1991, reflects a Jordanian consensus for democracy, pluralism, basic freedoms, gender equity, human rights, and a free market economy. Since the adoption of the National Charter, successive Jordanian governments have sought to implement its tenets into the daily life of our people.

We believe that we have the ability, the will and the experience to generate from our own resources a momentum which will transform a developing country into a developed one and to set a dynamic example in our region. The support and the investments we seek are the great potential of our own enthusiasm, and our own energies/the great human potential of our region.

Europe and our region are extensions of one another. We invite you to join us to further and deepen the ancient bonds between us, and together to build the better world we seek.

As I leave you today, my friends, I am happy to announce that I am heading to the United States, at the invitation of President Clinton, to attend the ratification of yet another agreement between the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the prime minister of Israel. It is truly another important breakthrough on the road to a comprehensive Middle East peace — the result of negotiations and commitment to the cause of peace and we praise the efforts of all who contributed to its achievement.

Thank you and God bless your worthy endeavours.

Arafat briefs Regent on autonomy accord

(Continued from page 1)
would continue to remain as their depth and they could count on Jordan's support," he said.

"We stand by the Palestinian brothers and will offer them all help within our means," he said, praising Mr. Arafat "for shouldering heavy responsibilities."

"May God help you under this difficult circumstance," the Regent told Mr. Arafat.

Referring to the expected PNA takeover of most of the West Bank under Sunday's self-rule accord, Mr. Arafat said: "We have inherited a totally devastated nation."

"We have to start from zero and this entails heavy responsibilities," he said, calling on Arab and friendly countries to help the PNA "shoulder these heavy responsibilities."

The difficulties facing the Palestinians were reflected in some of the statistics Mr. Arafat provided. He said water shortage was very acute in Gaza, 65 students were crammed into each class, schools were running three shifts to meet the demand and "half a bed" was available for every 1,000 Palestinians in hospitals. These were only few examples of the "problems of the Palestinian people who have been suffering 28 years of occupation," Mr. Arafat said.

"There is no doubt that you realise the difficult situation facing the Palestinians," he told the Regent.

However, he said, "Jordanians and Palestinians are twins and their high morale will enable the PNA to overcome the hardships."

The Regent called for close focus on coordination in daily issues, crossings between Jordan and the Palestinian territories and trade between the two sides.

Mr. Arafat said he called the King whenever the negotiations got into serious difficulties and noted that while the Israeli negotiations had "friends cooperating with them," the Palestinians were helped by their Arab brothers.

He said the Palestinians were due to participate in the peace process only after they were allowed to be part of the Jordanian delegation at the Madrid conference. This Jordanian support was very important for the Palestinians, he said, adding that the Palestinians realised from the beginning that any solution will be in phases.

Noting that the PNA was now

in the second phase of the declaration of principles signed by the PLO and Israel in September 1993, he said: "We still have a lot to do and we look forward to our brethren to achieve this, especially our twin country, Jordan, because we need their assistance. We should also not forget that a peaceful solution in the region does not lie in having peace only with the Jordanians. Palestinians and Egyptians, but also with the Syrians and Lebanese."

Mr. Arafat said although it was agreed in the declaration of principles that the question of Jerusalem was left to "final status" of negotiations, Israel was introducing demographic changes to the city. He said the Arab and Islamic nations as well as Christians all over the world should counter the Israeli efforts.

Following is partial transcript of the interview in a question and answer form:

Q: "With the PNA's initialising the second phase of the peace agreement, how do you see the Palestinian future?"

Mr. Arafat: First the agreement was basically signed between the PLO and the Israeli government. The PNA is part of the PLO, but the agreement was signed by the PLO. No doubt, this signing was supposed to take place three months after the Cairo agreement last year. But after 14 months of continued delay I would frankly like to say, I have great hopes to see during the signing ceremony at the White House a new commitment towards cooperation in the wider sense of the concept.

Prince Hassan: "I think it is useful to remind that the aforementioned meeting followed the Palestinian initiative in Oslo and during the meeting known as the donor meeting where the world countries sought to develop and rehabilitate the region's economy. When I mention economy of course it refers to the humanitarian dimension. What President Arafat said now reminds us that international commitments towards the peace process should be honoured. I have great hopes to see during the signing ceremony at the White House a new commitment towards cooperation in the wider sense of the concept."

"Naturally, security today does not only mean arms and ammunition. But it mainly relies on the people's feeling of change in their lives. The issue of withdrawal from a group of cities and villages and the ecstasy of freedom should be enhanced by making the people confident that the future is more promising than the past. This is what this makes everybody that these operations were coordinated between extremists here and there. We have documents but we cannot publicise them now, but we have them, and we have confessions by some concerning, for example, the Beirut operation. I discussed the operation with His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak and told Yitzhak Rabin that some Israeli elements are involved in such operations and asked him why should he only blame the PNA."

"I presented these documents to His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak, and I stress that elements here and there are seeking to destroy the peace process."

"We should grasp this opportunity to address the world and talk about the Jordanian and Palestinian people's needs and ability to change reality to the better, God willing, if we were given the chance."

Mr. Arafat: "This conference in this new world order is very important, not only for one or two countries, but for the whole

region, and for the strategic relationship and links between this region and the whole world, which imposes additional burdens on all parties."

Prince Hassan: "God willing, we will make the order together in a manner conforming to and serving our Arab, Jordanian, Palestinian and international goals. But our hopes are great, and by Abu Ammar's care and the cooperation of his assisting team, more will be achieved in bilateral coordination. Abu Ammar referred to the twins and twinning, and both terms are right.... We hope that Abu Ammar is the twin."

Q: "Your Royal Highness, in your first meeting at the White House in 1993 with President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Peres, you said that the meeting was not a photo opportunity but was a means to reach comprehensive and just peace in the region and removing disparities among the peoples of the region. Did what you said then come true with the signing of the Taiba agreement and other agreements in the peace process... are we on the way towards achieving comprehensive and just peace in the region?"

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Samir Barhoum contributed to this report

Jordanian feelings mixed towards accord

(Continued from page 1)

they say," said the politician, citing as evidence Israeli measures that contain Palestinians in their "Bundestans," while at the same time "building the infrastructure that links Israeli settlements to one another through roads, highways..."

Mr. Arafat: "If you allow me, Your Royal Highness, we should not waste the opportunities offered by the Amman meeting. We face a new world order which His Royal Highness named the new feudal order. The balance of power in the world has changed after the demise of the Soviet Union as the biggest nuclear power.

"We should know that our future borders are economic and are really difficult. Could we really face them or not? Or should we be tools serving others? This is our challenge and thus this is a responsibility for His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Hasan.

Noting that Israeli elections are approaching, the politician said that the three conditions Mr. Rabin has spelled out are "part and parcel of the Labour party's election campaign" but that "if one really believes in the dynamics of peace, the agreement definitely builds the momentum of establishing a Palestinian state despite the real physical obstacles on the ground."

Notwithstanding the negative aspects of the accord, some analysts have pointed out that the Palestinians had limited choices but to go ahead with the agreement, especially under the present "difficult circumstances when they are being expelled from Libya, turned away from Lebanon, and receiving close to no support at all from other Arabs," in the words of one seasoned analyst.

"Any progress in the direction of establishing a Palestinian state is something they are looking forward to and will use to the best of their abilities," he said.

Reiterating his call for the preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, the King called for "an immediate dialogue" among Iraqi Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds "to achieve national reconciliation."

"I would offer them all my support, and I implore them to engage in a serious dialogue to formulate a new constitution defining their respective aspirations and rights, within the context of their one country of Iraq, based on democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights."

"Hebron is no more an Arab town and the Ibrahim Mosque is no more a mosque... the deal does not secure the Palestinians' water rights or control over their land," Mr. Bakr said in reflecting Palestinians' rejection of the terms the two sides have

reached regarding Hebron, which was a sticking point in their negotiations.

World Bank sees poor hurt by budget cutters

WASHINGTON (R) — Those least able to feed for themselves would be hit the hardest by severe cutbacks in World Bank funding set aside for the very poorest countries, the bank said Sunday.

The World Bank is in tough negotiations to replenish the coffers of the International Development Association (IDA), its arm that provides essentially interest-free credit to countries going through very difficult times.

Looking for ways to come to grips with the U.S. budget deficit, Congress has warned that new funding for IDA would be hard to come by and has even proposed reducing and stretching our existing commitments.

In a briefing for reporters on its annual report, bank officials said a big cutback in money for IDA would make it impossible to maintain even a basic attack on global poverty.

"To the 1.2 billion people in the world who live on less than a \$1 a day such an outcome would be devastating."

BRUSSELS (R) — Selling a single European currency to a sceptical public may be one of the biggest hurdles politicians face.

The latest row over European monetary union, highlighted by Germany's wish to ensure lasting budget restraint, has at its core a growing anxiety over the German public's reluctance to part with the trustworthy mark.

But the Germans are not alone in their doubts of a still unnamed future currency. The contentious issue of monetary union is near the top of the political agenda in numerous EU states where public opinion poses a huge obstacle.

In Sweden, for example, there has been talk of possibly holding referendum on monetary union, a strategy that is directly at odds with the Maastricht treaty.

Swedish Finance Minister Goran Persson said recently that "it is really up to us how we decide about the third stage (of monetary union)."

Meanwhile, anti-EU sentiment is running at a fever pitch in Britain. Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said this week that it is clear that full monetary union may

ing," bank spokesman Tim Cullen told reporters.

The United States is not expected to meet its full commitment to IDA, probably falling far short of its \$3.75 billion pledge for the three years ending June 30, 1996.

This and critical statements from a tight-fisted Congress has cast a fall over negotiations for the next three-year replenishment. It's far certain whether other donors, many also facing tight budgets, will make up for U.S. cuts.

"Proposals in Congress to reduce and stretch out the third tranche of the U.S. contribution to IDA 10, do not augur well for IDA 11, which is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 1996," Mr. Cullen told reporters.

At the same time, bank officials concede they are discussing new ways to help poor countries burdened with so much debt that it's unlikely they can ever pay it back.

One idea put forward by bank staff is a kind of arm's-length trust fund that could help strapped countries make

payments to multilateral lending institutions like the bank.

This is delicate ground for the bank, which borrows money in the financial markets to pay for its loans and is highly protective of its excellent debt rating.

Such a fund, which could get seed money from the bank, would kick in when countries had reached accord with the Paris Club on official debt and the London Club on commercial debt.

But critics believe a facility of this sort could further undermine the commitment by countries to fund IDA.

Underscoring the diverse role of the bank in the developing world, the annual report said its assistance ranged from helping Mexico cool its peso crisis to providing money to fight the disease of AIDS.

It stressed that it was trying to make certain that its loans to countries paid off, more closely monitoring projects to ensure they achieve their objectives.

EU single currency faces tough public acceptance

BRUSSELS (R) — Selling a single European currency to a sceptical public may be one of the biggest hurdles politicians face.

A recent survey Eurobarometer, an EU research group, puts the issue in perspective by citing six member states where public sentiment towards a single currency is negative.

Aside from Germany, the residents of Britain, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Denmark are simply unwilling to abandon their national currencies.

In Britain 38 per cent of the public is in favour of a single currency by 1999 while 55 per cent are against. Germany shows a similar support level at 38 per cent with 50 per cent casting a no vote and in Denmark the figures are 30 and 66 per cent.

Among some of the EU's newer entrants hostility towards a new currency is also widespread.

The citizens of Austria show a paltry 35 per cent in favour of abandoning the shilling with 51 per cent against. Finland also registers a heavy no vote at 59 per cent, while the Swedes express support at 32 per cent and disfavour at 57 per cent.

One analyst responsible for collecting and interpreting

the results says the EU newcomers need time to adjust to their membership requirements.

"Many new countries need a couple of years to adjust themselves to the fact that neither heaven or hell has arrived," he said.

But when one takes a longer view and asks the naysayers whether they think a single currency will be a reality for their children, the answer is a resounding yes.

For example, 65 per cent of Germans say they expect a new currency by the year 2010 followed closely by the Danes at 63 per cent.

Even for some of the most rock-hard Eurosceptics the future is unambiguously clear.

A solid 66 per cent of Britons anticipate that they will eventually hand over their banknotes for a new currency.

For the 15 member states as group a similar 66 per cent say monetary union will become reality by 2010.

In light of these results experts generally agree that EU leaders may need to step up their sales campaign if a new currency is to become reality by 1999.

THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin

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11 Noah's son

14 Abates

15 Law partner?

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17 Small sum

19 Shad product

20 Earth tone

21 "As I was going to St. —..."

22 In a dither

24 Capt. Hook's sidekick

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27 Tropical cove

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33 Matinee figures

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36 State of mind

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38 Long, detailed report

39 Tax org.

40 Place for locks

41 Foretold

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44 Napa Valley sight

45 In a rut

46 Catch a fly ball

47 Underwater apparatus

49 Merino mamas

50 Turkey mister

53 Highland hat

54 Kind of prank

58 Cleopatra's viper

59 Missed the mark

60 Down producer

61 I agree

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DOWN

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2 Tittering sound

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5 Native Alaskans

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60 Down producer

61 I agree

62 Housing document

63 Tractor man

1 Ghost

6 Bangladesh capital

business Daily Beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Government offers to sell its shares in three big companies

★ THE JORDAN Investment Corporation, the investment arm of the government, is selling its equity in three public shareholding companies. According to three advertisements, the corporation is inviting interested investors to submit their purchase bids before Oct. 3, 1995 to buy 250,000 shares of the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company, 200,000 shares of the Jordan Worsted Mills Company and 40,000 shares of the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company. The bids should not be for less than 50,000 shares for the first two companies and 10,000 shares for the third company. The bid should include a bank guarantee for five per cent of the bid value in favour of the Jordan Investment Corporation. The ads indicated that the average selling price for the three companies during 1995 have been JD 7.980 per share for the Jordan Worsted Mills, JD 3.960 for the paper and cardboard company and JD 27.250 for the cigarettes company (Al Dustour).

The new president Juergen Schrempf said that work was being pressed ahead to find

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October.

AMMAN — Against the backdrop of moves in Mideast towards more interaction with international money markets in the wake of new economic opportunities in the region, Amman next week hosts a meeting that would focus on risk management and foreign currency.

The meeting, the annual conference of the Inter-Arab Cambist Association (ICA), will discuss issues such as derivatives (international monetary papers, bonds, shares etc.) and risk management and protection in the international market. The international news agency, Reuters, is organising the main seminar entitled "Risk Management."

The meeting, to be inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will also assess chances of investment in Jordan ahead of the

years, with many banks as well as investment houses increasing their involvement in the international scene through acquisitions in foreign assets and monetary instruments such as shares, treasury bonds and short-term papers.

By and large, this increased involvement also meant a scaling down in foreign banks' management of Arab funds abroad, while no one could accurately estimate how much of the estimated \$200 billion in Arab money held outside the Arab World is handled by Arab institutions.

The ICA describes itself as a non-profit organisation "established for developing, supporting and improving the profession of dealing in foreign exchange and upgrading it to a high level of discipline."

It also aims at "promoting the concept of closer Arab-international cooperation and enhance friendly relations among experts and professionals working in the field of investment and dealing in currencies."

The ICA holds its annual meetings alternatively between Arab and non-Arab countries in what the association describes as an effort to "strengthen relations" between Arab and non-Arab operators and upgrade the techniques of dealings in foreign exchange dealings and investment.

The Amman meeting is sponsored by the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank.

Dollar, DASA drive Daimler-Benz into loss

STUTTGART, Germany (AFP) — The biggest German industrial company daimler Benz fell from profit into a net loss of 1.567 billion marks (\$1.04 billion) in the first half of the year because of the strength of the mark against the dollar, the company has announced.

The bright star in the results was provided by the Daimler-Benz car business which increased operating profits by 44 per cent.

Results for the whole year would depend on the value of the dollar and on the extent

"radical" solutions to the group's problems and particularly to one of the main sources of loss, the aerospace division DASA.

The main factor behind the results was provided by the Daimler-Benz car business which increased operating profits by 44 per cent.

Sales for the whole year would depend on the value of the dollar and on the extent

of provisions for the DASA aerospace subsidiary, the company warned.

In the first half of last year the group made a net profit of 462 million marks on the basis of German accounting standards.

"We are working now on radical solutions which will enable us, despite the negative monetary environment, to put the divisions concerned back on the road to profits," Mr. Schrempf, who has been company president since May, said in a statement.

By U.S. standards the company made a net loss of 1.57 billion marks from a profit of 369 million marks.

The company has produced two sets of accounts since its shares were floated on the New York stock exchange in October 1993.

For the first half the company reported an operating loss of 1.154 billion marks from a profit of 926 million marks.

Sales rose by one per cent to 48.037 billion marks and were expected to amount to about 108 billion marks for the whole year.

The main factor behind the loss in the first half is the enormous fall in the value of the dollar against the mark," the group said.

Sales had slipped by 0.8 per cent to 4.386 billion marks.

But operating profit at the car division, Mercedes-Benz, had risen by 44.7 per cent to 1.492 billion marks on sales which showed a gain of 3.0 per cent in 35.6 billion marks "despite fluctuations in exchange rates."

Operating profits at the services division Debs had fallen by 43.1 per cent owing to the cost of integrating its German leasing subsidiary.

"Daimler-Benz expects to

Financial Markets		Jordan Times		in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank	
U.S. Dollar in International Markets							
Currency	New York Close Date 25/9/95	Tokyo Close Date 25/9/95					
Sterling Pound*	1.5743	1.5705**					
Deutsche Mark	1.4918	1.4914					
Swiss Franc	1.1465	1.1500**					
French Franc	4.9290	4.9450**					
Japanese Yen	99.95	99.65					
European Currency Unit	1.3025	1.2923**					
* USD Per BTG ** Bourse Opened 25/9/95 And GMT							
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 25/9/1995							
Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS			
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56			
Sterling Pound	8.56	8.56	8.56	8.56			
Deutsche Mark	3.87	3.87	3.87	3.87			
Swiss Franc	2.37	2.37	2.31	2.31			
French Franc	5.68	5.68	5.62	5.62			
Japanese Yen	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.37			
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.56	5.56	5.56			
Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.							
Previous Weeks Date: 25/9/1995							
Gold	382.45	7.50	Silver	5.40	0.10		
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 25/9/1995							
Currency	Bid	Offer					
U.S. Dollar	0.7100	0.7100					
Sterling Pound	1.1154	1.1210					
Deutsche Mark	0.4401	0.5016					
Swiss Franc	0.6191	0.6227					
French Franc	0.1441	0.1448					
Japanese Yen	0.7106	0.7142					
Dutch Guilder	0.6465	0.6477					
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000					
Italian Lira*	0.0461	0.0463					
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000					
* Per 100							
Other Currencies Date: 25/8/1995							
Currency	Bid	Offer					
Syrian Dinar	1.8670	1.8800					
Lebanese Lira*	0.043560	0.044550					
Saudi Riyal	0.1890	0.1900					
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3050	2.3450					
Qatari Riyal	0.1938	0.1950					
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100					
Omani Riyal	1.8240	1.8470					
UAE Dirham	0.1927	0.1936					
Greek Drachma*	0.2245	0.2235					
Cypriot Pound	0.0000	0.0000					
* Per 100							
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES							
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.							
One U.S. dollar	1.3470/80		Canadian dollar				
	1.4204/14		Deutschmarks				
	1.5920/30		Dutch guilders				
	1.1436/46		Swiss francs				
	29.20/25		Belgian francs				
	4.9245/95		French francs				
	1608.89.8		Italian lire				
	99.32/42		Japanese yen				
	7.0190/90		Swedish kronas				
	6.2680/30		Norwegian kronas				
	5.5465/15		Danish kronas				
One sterling	\$1.5720/30						
One ounce of gold	\$382.00/382.40						

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

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Canadian dollar
 Deutschmarks
 Dutch guilders
 Swiss francs
 Belgian francs
 French francs
 Italian lire
 Japanese yen
 Swedish kronas
 Norwegian kronas
 Danish kronas

One sterling \$1.5720/30
 One ounce of gold \$382.00/382.40

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For Rent

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 Villas apartments
 Hand office Space
 To Suit all Budgets
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Beirut Bourse reopens

BEIRUT (AP) — The Beirut Bourse reopened Monday after a 13-year closure forced by war, but trading was not expected to begin before several weeks because of legal wrangles.

The rebirth of the stock exchange, which symbolised the city's prewar entrepreneurial spirit, is viewed as a key marker in Lebanon's attempts to reemerge as a centre for Middle East commerce after the 1975-90 civil war.

Exchange president Gabriel Sahaoui, speaking to reporters at a ceremony on the exchange's new floor, said one of the bourse's key roles would be to attract capital to finance the multi-billion dollar reconstruction of Lebanon.

He said: "We hope that the

activity of the Beirut Bourse in the future would be at a level we advocate as an engine of reconstruction and development in Lebanon as well as an encouraging factor in the flow to investment capital."

But the bourse was off to a modest start with only four companies listed, compared with over 50 before the civil war.

The trading floor is a compact 20-by-25-feet (6-by-8 metres) area at a Beirut office tower. It has only eight computer terminals and up to 10 employees.

The bourse, whose symbolic reopening came after repeated delays, is continuing to face legal and other challenges and trading was not expected to start before the end of next month or mid-

November, according to Xavier Mengin, one of

Arabian Horse Show starts today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian horse riders dominated the first day of competition Monday at the sixth Arabian horse at home show which will officially open today.

Mayson Bisharat and Ibrahim Bisharat shared the first place in the six bar show jumping. Sharif Zeid Fawaz came second among fifteen young riders who participated in the event.

In the 100-metre flat race Royal Stable horses Ghali, ridden by Othman, and Salama ridden by Masir Atiey clinched first and third places. Al Hasnah, ridden by Abdullah Hassan from Said Kheir stable was second.

The 400-metre race Al Maymoun, Ghadeer Romack and Noor Al Salam, all from Iraq, won.

In the 600-metre race first place went to Lateef, second to Sindiabd and third to Amir Al Badia.

Monday's events were attended by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, and Princess Zain Bint Al Hussein, Minister of Interior Salameh Hamdan and Shuaib Al Kawari, president of Arab and Qatari equestrian federation. The

races were held in the morning at the equestrian centre at Sport City.

Earlier in the day, 50 students attended a judging course lectured by a visiting international judge, Pete Upton, who focused on beauty show evaluation of the horse.

The five-day event is organised by the Jordanian Arabian Horse Society which is headed by Princess Alia.

The event will include a judging course, an endurance race, horse shows and a show jumping competition.

There are five international judges who came from Great Britain, Poland, Spain, Oman and Lebanon. International judges are necessitated because refereeing of participants from one's own country is disallowed.

One of the main aims of the Arabian Horse Show is to enable horse breeders to qualify their Arabian horses to take part in international competition.

The show also aims to expose a part of Arab culture and to demonstrate the endurance of Arabian horses. Today's official opening ceremony at 3:30 p.m. will be followed by the "foal at foot championship," "junior male" and "junior female" championship.

Charles strikes gold for Ireland

GALLEN, Switzerland (R) — Liverpool-born Peter Charles, who in 1991 decided to take advantage of his Irish ancestry and ride for Ireland, became champion of Europe on Sunday, the first Irishman to win a senior international show jumping title.

In a jump-off against the clock to decide the gold and silver medals, Britain's Michael Whitaker was clear until the last fence on Everest. Two stop when he took off the top rail to finish on four faults in 50.97 seconds.

GOREN BRIDGE

WHAT YOU KNOW CAN HURT

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1+	Pass
2+	Pass	3+	Pass
4+	Pass	5+	Pass
5+	Pass	6+	Pass
6+	Pass	7+	Pass
7+	Pass	8+	Pass

The bidding:

WEST	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
AQ 87	AK 87	AK 84	+K J 6

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

When a defender has a choice of cards to play, it makes good sense to play a card you are known to have. This hand will illustrate what we mean.

Assume you are South. You don't bidding because you read an option in a trade catalog. Your partner has not been shy — with a balanced hand and no high spades honor, five spades would have been enough after East doubled North's five-heart cue-bid.

You're in the first trick on the table and the losing spade finesse. West returns a heart, which you ruff. You have your guessing cap on when you elect to hang down the ace of spades and drop the jack rather than take a new lead. Now if you had to do is give the problem a new club suit. You start by leading a club to the jack, which holds. Next you cash the king of clubs.

If West routinely follows with the ten, you have only one choice. You cash the club in and when everybody follows, you distract a diamond on the nine of clubs and the slam is home.

Now let's suppose that, instead of the ten of clubs, West drops the queen, which is what is known to have because the finesse succeeded, under the king. Now you have to decide whether to play for a 3-3 club split or finesse East for the ten of clubs. Since the odds favor a 4-3 split, you're going to favor the minor and go down.

Would the hand have taken in by East's falsecard? You can bet on it.

Australian Doohan wins 2nd world title

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Australian Michael Doohan won his second straight motorcycle World Championship Sunday, winning the Argentine Grand Prix to clinch the title with one race remaining.

Doohan, starting second on the grid on a Honda in the 500cc division, finished the 27 laps in 47 minutes, 30.236 seconds at an average speed of 148.346 kph.

The victory — his seventh of the season — gave him an unbeatable 31-point lead over countryman and Daryl Beattie, who finished Sunday's race in second on his Suzuki.

Only the European Grand Prix in Barcelona, Spain, on Oct. 8 remains.

"It's very satisfying to have won the title here in Argentina but I must admit that I could only relax on the final laps when I managed to keep Beattie in check," the 30-year-old Doohan said.

"Beattie has come a long way as a driver and is a lot more confident than before," he added. "That's why things got close towards the end of the tournament."

Italian Luca Cadalora, who started in pole position, was third on a Yamaha.

Earlier in the day, Italy's Max Biaggi came from fifth on the grid to win the 250cc category.

Michael Doohan does a wheelie on his Honda going into the straightaway to wards the finish line at the Argentine Motorcycling Grand Prix (Reuters photo)

Morceli, Mutola blaze victories in exhibition meet

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Algerian middle distance great Noureddine Morceli beat his nearest rival by 40 metres in an impressive high-altitude victory in the 1,500 metres Sunday at the inaugural All African International Invitation track meet.

Suffering from a cold, Morceli, three-times world 1,500 metres champion and current holder of four world records, nonetheless came in at three minutes, 39.01 seconds, nearly five seconds ahead of Kenya's Vincent Malakwen.

The time lagged well off his

world record of 3:27.37 set July 12 in Nice, but Morceli — who trains and prefers races at sea level — considered the victory his best result ever at an altitude as high as Johannesburg's 1,750

metres.

"I wanted to put on a good and spectacular race for the public here," Morceli said at a news conference.

"I hope they enjoyed it. This is my best race at high altitude."

The Algerian was one of several stars at the meet, the first at the just-completed Johannesburg stadium and an event South Africans hope

will give weight to Cape Town's bid to host the 2004 Olympics.

The exhibition came just a day after South Africa finished first the Olympic-style All Africa Games in Harare, Zimbabwe, in its first appearance since the end of apartheid-era isolation.

As expected, a handful of international stars dominated the meet. None established major records, though impressive times were set by sprinters Linford Christie, Frank Fredericks, Irina Privalova and 800-metres specialist Maria Mutola.

Mozambique's Mutola looked to a 40-metre victory margin over Ireland's Sonai O'Sullivan, taking the 800 metres at 1:57.67, 2.48 seconds off her African record and retaining her unbroken record in the distance since the 1992 Olympics.

Fredericks, of Namibia, made up for his second-place finish Christie in the 100 metres Saturday by blazing to a 19.93 victory in the 200 metres — just 0.12 seconds slower than his African record — despite a determined challenge from Emmanuel Turfou of Ghana.

The Russian Privalova, who easily won Saturday's 100 metres, held off Pauline Davis of the Bahamas on Sunday in the women's 200 metres, clocking in at 22.30 metres.

Not all the stars performed as well. Ukrainian pole-vaulting magician Sergei Bubka failed to clear 6.05 metres in three attempts and had to settle for a five-centimetre margin of victory at 5.95 metres over his Russian foil, Radion Gattaukin.

In other events, Renata Nielsen of Denmark cleared 6.51 metres in the women's long jump, South African

Karen van den Veen ran 56.13 in the 400-metre women's hurdles, Gideon Churchill came in at 5:25.36 to lead a Kenyan sweep of the 2,000-metre steeplechase. Dmitri Schevchenko of Russia hurled the discuss 60.88 metres, and Venuste Nyong'o of Burundi clocked 7.52.99 finish in the 3,000 metres.

Rated one of the world's top five athletics stadiums by the International Amateur Athletics Federation, the new Johannesburg Stadium will host the 1998 Athletics World Cup.

hurt after being trapped under the car in the crash."

Williams filled the front row for the start after redesigned FW17B cars dominated qualifying with improved diffusers, rear-end aerodynamics and transmissions. But after qualifying Saturday, with reliability questions looming, Williams reverted back to the old specifications used at Monza.

Williams mechanics worked until 2 a.m. to change the cars back to their former structure.

Coulthard wins first ever Grand Prix, edges out favourites

ESTORIL, Portugal (AP) — Scotsman David Coulthard won his first-ever Formula One race Sunday, edging out Michael Schumacher and Williams teammate Damon Hill on Sunday in a Portuguese Grand Prix marred by a starting-line crash.

Ukyo Katayama escaped serious injury when his Tyrrell appeared to hit Luca Badoer's Minardi, flipped and slammed into crash barriers.

The crash caused officials to stop the race and restart it

25 minutes later. Coulthard again left from the pole and never trailed, finishing 7.248 seconds ahead of Schumacher and his Benetton. Hill was third in the other Williams, 22.121 seconds back of Coulthard.

The Ferraris of Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi were fourth and fifth, ahead of Germany's Heinz-Harald Frentzen in a Sauber.

"It was a fantastic feeling and a warm relief," a grinning Coulthard said of the moment he stepped onto the

winner's podium and sprayed the crowds with champagne. "It's very important for my confidence to be a winner and to be a winner fairly and squarely."

Coulthard was passed over for next season by team chief Frank Williams, who signed Jacques Villeneuve, son of late Canadian Formula One star Gilles Villeneuve, to drive alongside Hill.

The Scot, who has been courted by McLaren and Ferrari, told a news conference he already had secured a ride for next season but refused to reveal the team until next week. McLaren is said to be the favourite.

The results moved Coulthard up to third in the world championship standings with 39 points, but allowed season-leader Schumacher to pull another two points ahead of Hill with four races remaining (72.55).

"As far as the championships go... it's looking a bit out of reach," Hill said. "I pray for a bit of a miracle to beat Michael in the championship now, but we'll give it a go."

With each victory worth 10 points and second worth six, Schumacher wasn't ready to claim the title.

"It's far too early to say, there are so many things that can happen, there are four races to go, so let's wait a couple of races," he said.

"With the performance they're going to put on it's going to be difficult for us. But we're not going to sleep in the meantime, we'll be pushing hard over the next weeks."

Schumacher, who started just behind Hill on the grid, moved past rival into second at the chicane on lap 61 of the

71-lap event, after the Briton lost a gamble with only two tire changes. The disintegrating condition of his rubber appeared to give Schumacher, who made one more stop to change tires, enough to get past the Williams.

After the race, an angry Alesi told reporters he was being given second-rate treatment by Ferrari and team Director Jean Todt.

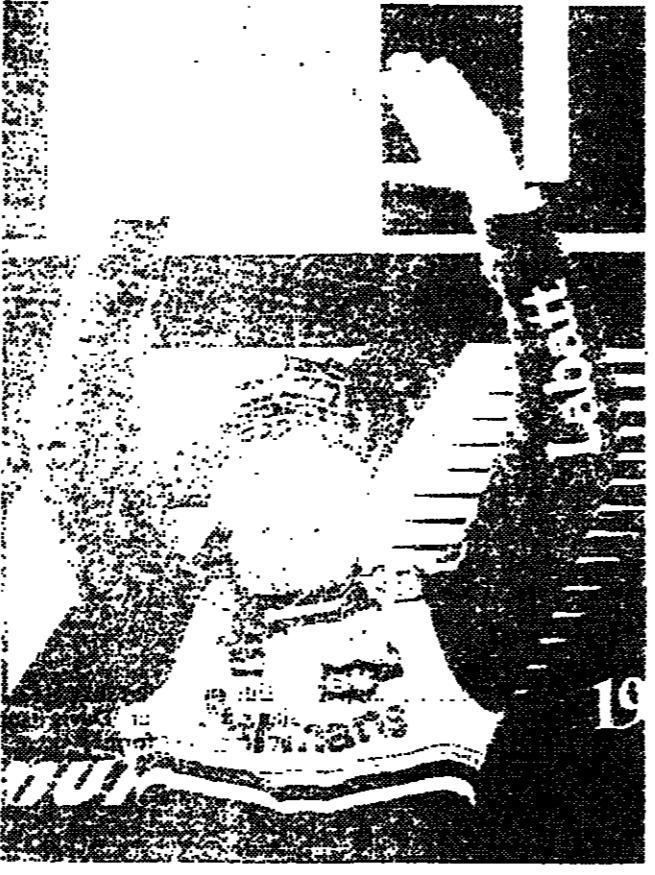
"I've had enough," said Alesi, who will be driving alongside Berger next season at Benetton. "It's the second time this season they've

asked me to pull aside for my teammate when I'm in front."

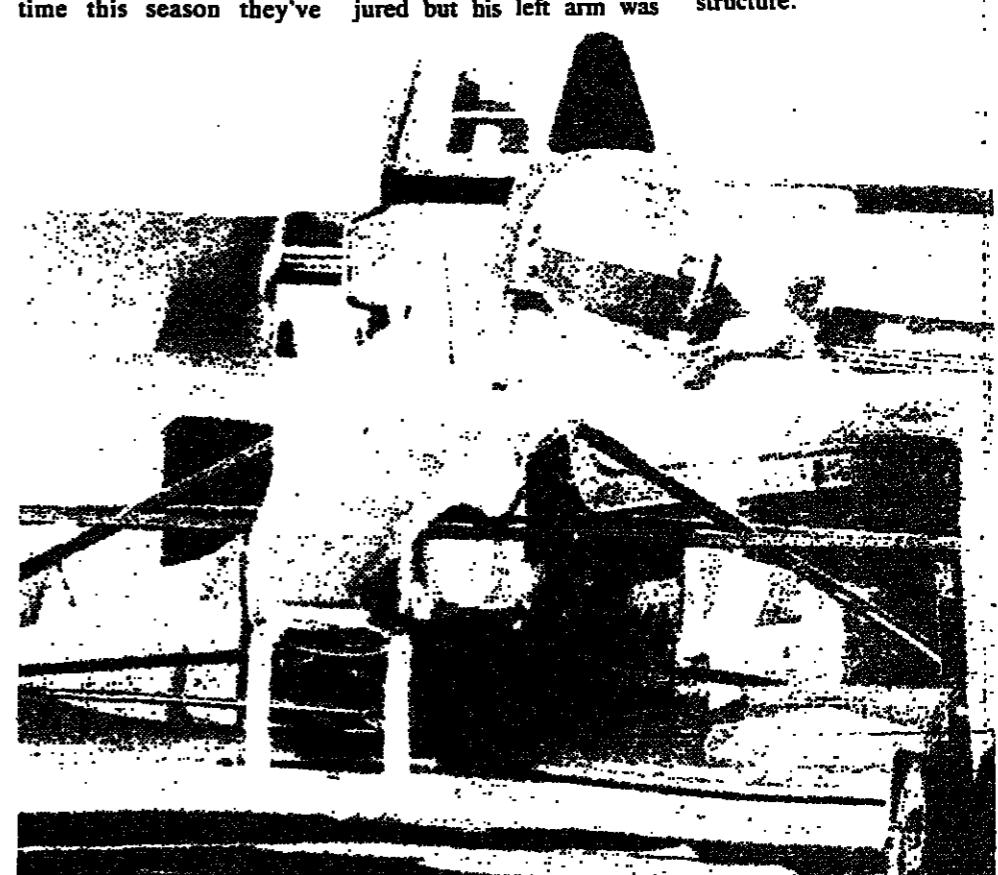
Katayama had to be cut from the wreckage of his car and flown by helicopter to a hospital in nearby Lisbon.

He was listed in a stable condition and expected to be held for up to 48 hours, FIA officials said. Katayama had no broken limbs, but a stiff neck.

Ken Tyrrell, chairman of the Tyrrell team, said his driver was not seriously injured but his left arm was



Scottish Williams Renault driver David Coulthard jubilates on the podium after winning the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril (AFP photo)



Scottish Williams Renault pilot David Coulthard steers his Williams Renault into a curve during the Portuguese Grand Prix (AFP photo)

Jalabert wins Tour of Spain

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Frenchman Laurent Jalabert won the 50th running of the Tour of Spain Sunday finishing the 3,750-kilometre cycling race under sunny skies in front of cheering crowds in the country's capital.

Riding down the Paseo de la Castellana, Madrid's main thoroughfare, Jalabert of the Once team completed the 21-stage race in 95 hours, 30 minutes and 33 seconds.

German rider Marcel Wust won the day's race, a 17-kilometre stage that began in Alcala de Henares just west of Madrid. Wust's winning

time was four hours, 14 minutes and 59 seconds.

Upon entering Madrid, the riders circled up and down the Paseo de la Castellana eight times before finishing in front of the giant Santiago Bernabeu soccer stadium.

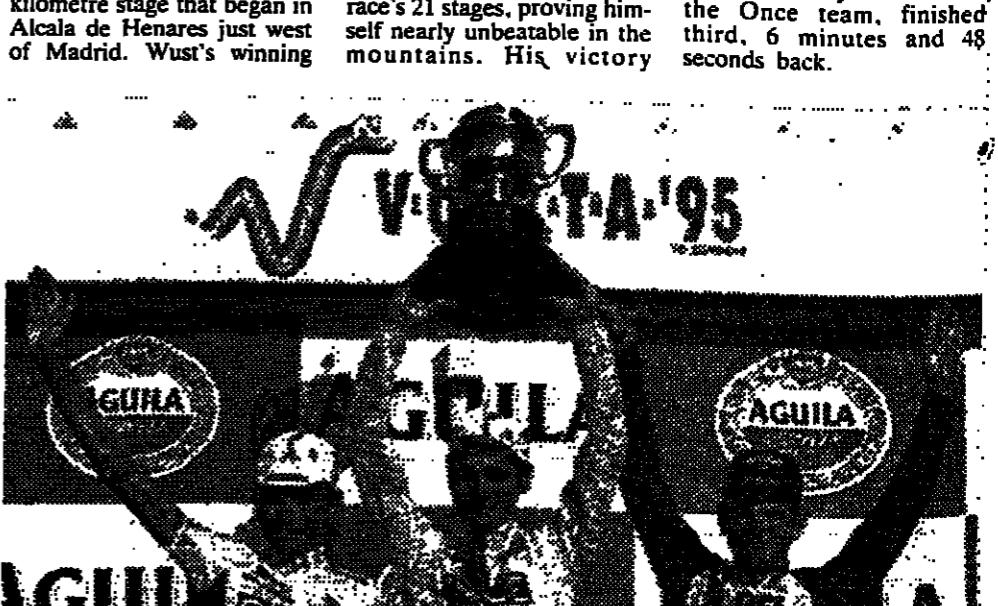
Jalabert's victory was all but assured midway in the race when the Frenchman put more than five minutes between himself and his closest challenger, Spaniard Abraham Olano riding for the Mapei-Gb team.

Jalabert won five of the race's 21 stages, proving himself nearly unbeatable in the mountains. His victory

marked the ninth time a French rider has won the Tour of Spain.

Meanwhile, the Spanish crowds that welcomed the riders into the city cheered heartily for Olano, the 25-year-old who many here see as the next great Spanish rider after Miguel Indurain, winner of July's Tour of France.

Olano completed the race four minutes and 22 seconds behind Jalabert. Belgian rider Johan Bruyneel, also of the Once team, finished third, 6 minutes and 48 seconds back.



Winner Laurent Jalabert of France is flanked at the podium by runner-up Abraham Olano of Spain (right) and third-placed Johan Bruyneel of Belgium after the final stage of the Tour of Spain cycle race (Reuters photo)

Winner Laurent Jalabert of France is flanked at the podium by runner-up Abraham Olano of Spain (right) and

CINEMA TEL: 634144
PHILADELPHIA Liam Neeson & Jessica Lange in Rob Roy Shows 1230, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CINEMA TEL: 699238
PLAZA Mahmoud Yassin / Hussein Fahmi in NUT SHELL Arabic Shows at: 1230, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420
CONCORD CONCORD "1" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 1230, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45 CONCORD "2" Police Academy "Mission to Moscow" Shows: 4, 6, 8, 10

AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275 MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" IN Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawq

Sports

Boxer hospitalised after KO

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Filipino boxer Fernando Piccio was on a life support system in the Royal Brisbane Hospital Sunday after being knocked out in a bout in nearby Toowoomba the previous evening.

Piccio, 22, was stopped in the seventh round of an eight-round lightweight contest against Australian Selwyn Currie at the Toowoomba showground, 125 kilometres west of Brisbane.

He suffered a suspected brain hemorrhage after the bout and was taken to Toowoomba General Hospital for treatment. He was transferred to the Royal Brisbane Hospital early Sunday. The hospital said in a statement that he was: "Unconscious, on a life support machine and in a serious condition."

UEFA upholds ban on club

GENEVA (AP) — UEFA on Sunday rejected an appeal from Dynamo Kiev Sunday and upheld an earlier decision to disqualify the team from European competition for match-fixing.

The UEFA Appeal Council met for six hours before announcing that it was rejecting an appeal from the Ukrainians to reverse last week's penalty.

Dynamo Kiev was expelled from the European Champions League and from European tournaments for two years for trying to bribe the referee in their game on Sept.

13 against Greece's Panathinaikos.

UEFA found Dynamo officials had tried unsuccessfully to bribe Spanish referee Antonio Lopez Nieto in the Group A game which was won in Kiev 1-0 by the Ukrainians.

Nieto told UEFA that two Dynamo representatives offered him two fur coats worth \$30,000. Dynamo contends Nieto was trying to save face after not being able to pay for fur coats he had delivered to his hotel room before the match.

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Martin steps in for Agassi, sends U.S. to finals

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1995 11

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Todd Martin replaced an injured Andre Agassi and beat Sweden's Thomas Enqvist in straight sets Sunday to win the Davis Cup semifinal for the United States.

With a shirtless, bandaged Agassi watching from court-side, Martin clinched the berth against Russia in the Davis Cup finals for the U.S. team with a 7-5, 7-5, 7-6 (7-2) win before a cheering, flag-waving crowd at the outdoor court at Caesars Palace.

"It's the best feeling I've had in the game of tennis," Martin said after becoming the unlikely hero on a team stacked with the top two

players in the world.

Agassi, who had hoped to provide the deciding win before his hometown fans, had to be content instead with a courtside seat and tender hugs from girlfriend Brooke Shields as Martin gave the U.S. team an insurmountable 3-1 lead.

Agassi, who pulled a muscle on the right side of his chest in Friday's win over Mats Wilander, woke up Sunday to find the injury worse and decided he could not play.

"It's disappointing because you want to go out there and play," Agassi said. "We all felt confident in Todd. He's a

great backup singles player."

Agassi, who was on the losing side in Saturday's doubles match, was told after the match by U.S. captain Tom Gullikson that he might have to play. But he went to bed Saturday night still not sure about Agassi's status.

"I was in limbo," said Martin, who got the final word he would play only 90 minutes before the match. "After I took a fair beating at the casino tables I figured I'd better get prepared for it in case I played. Of course, I didn't have any money left."

Martin, the world's 19th-ranked player, took advantage of some crucial mistakes

by Enqvist late in the first and second sets to turn the day's second match between Pete Sampras and Mats Wilander into nothing more than an exhibition.

Down 5-4 in the first set, Martin fought off two set points, one on a disputed call, to pull even. He broke Enqvist in the second game, then captured the set when the Swede netted a return of serve.

The scenario nearly repeated itself in the second set, as Martin took advantage of a double-fault by Enqvist with the games tied 5-5 before serving up a backhand winner to break his serve.

Down 5-4 in the first set,

"A lot of good things happened at the right time early," Martin said. "I think that got him a little dejected."

Martin, who had lost the deciding match to Sweden in last year's semifinal, threw his racquet high in the air and hugged Gullikson and Agassi. He then buried his face in a towel, crying tears of joy.

"I guess I got my second chance," Martin said. "It was certainly my highest moment in tennis."



Todd Martin (right) hugs U.S. team captain Tom Gullikson after winning the Davis Cup semifinals against Thomas Enqvist, of Sweden at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas (Reuter photo)



teammate Todd Martin play a Davis Cup semi-final match against Sweden's Thomas Enqvist (AFP photo)

Russia shocks Germany, reaches Davis Cup final

MOSCOW (AP) — The odds were worse than in "Russian roulette" — facing nine match points against one of the best serves in tennis — but Andrei Chesnokov walked away unscathed.

As a result, Russia clinched a second straight spot in the Davis Cup final Sunday with a comeback only slightly less improbable than Chesnokov's wrenching, back-from-the-dead victory in five grueling sets over Germany's Michael Stich.

After dodging all nine bullets on Stich's serve, trailing 7-6 in the fifth set, the gutsy Chesnokov went on to a 6-4, 1-6, 1-6, 6-3, 14-12 triumph to keep alive Russia's dream of a first Davis Cup title. The dramatic final set lasted two

hours, 16 minutes.

"It was unbelievable what I did," said a jubilant Chesnokov, a decided underdog against Stich even before his miracle rally. "After I lost two sets 6-1, 6-1, it looked like I had no more chances."

Russia, too, appeared to have few chances of winning after dropping Friday's first two matches.

The final-match showdown was made possible by a doubles victory Saturday by Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy, then by Kafelnikov's 6-1, 7-6, (7-5), 6-2 victory Sunday over Bernd Karbacher, a last-minute replacement after Boris Becker was sidelined by a back injury.

When Stich's double-fault

after 4:18 gave Russia a 3-2 victory in the best-of-five, Chesnokov fell to his knees and grabbed his head. Then his teammates picked him up and tossed him in the air as the indoor Olympic stadium crowd of over 10,000 went into a frenzy.

"Andrei showed that he's a real player, a real fighter and a real Russian," said Kafelnikov, who was beaten by Stich on Friday.

It marked only the fifth time a team had won in Davis Cup world group play after trailing 2-0. Sweden accomplished the same feat against the United States in last year's semifinals.

The Russians, last year's runners up, will play the U.S.-Sweden winner on Dec.



Stich of Germany in the deciding match of the Davis Cup semi-final (Reuters photo)

Michael would lose nine match points."

Becker, the world's No. 4 player, was in position to clinch Germany's fourth appearance in the final in eight years — the first with erstwhile rivals Becker and Stich playing together.

But the 27-year-old awoke in pain Sunday, his back aching from more than seven hours of hard-fought tennis in two days. After the Russian grounds crew overwatered the court before Friday's matches to try to slow the serve-and-volley German's, Becker outlasted Chesnokov but complained that playing on the soggy, uneven surface was "like jogging on the beach."

Facing the prospect of another grueling match against the sixth-ranked Kafelnikov, team captain Nikki Pilic made the decision to replace Becker with Karbacher, rated 31st in the world.

Karbacher had beaten the 21-year-old Kafelnikov in straight sets the last time they played. But Kafelnikov quickly showed his superiority in racing through the first set, and survived a brief threat in the second set when Karbacher knocked a forehand long in the tiebreaker before flinging his racket to the backstop in disgust.

"I think he had a little more gas left at the end," said the dejected Stich, who buried his head in a towel at court side after the match.

"Still, I should have won."

German captain Nikki Pilic added: "That's happened maybe once in 50 years that someone who can serve like

It was only Karbacher's third Davis Cup match. Kafelnikov, including doubles, has played 24.

"He felt the pressure, and you could see that from the very beginning of the match," Kafelnikov said.

Medina wins WBC title

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Manuel Medina won a 12-round split decision Saturday over Alejandro Gonzalez to take his World Boxing Council (WBC) featherweight title.

There were no knockdowns, although both boxers appeared to be in trouble at various times.

Judge Lou Filippo of Downey, California, had it 116-112 for Medina, while Hank Elespuru of Sacramento went for the challenger 115-113. Chuck Williams of Honolulu cast a 115-113 decision for Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said he would appeal to the WBC for a rematch.

"I'm very sad the judges didn't accommodate the effort I put into it," he said. "I don't see how they could have voted for my opponent. I'm very confident I won the fight."

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U.S. writes off all of Jordan's public debts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the United States on Monday formalised the cancellation of \$420 million of the Kingdom's debts, raising to \$640 million the amount of Jordanian debts forgiven by the American government since 1994 and relieving the Kingdom of all official debts to the U.S.

An agreement to this effect was signed by Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh and U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan in line with a bill adopted by the U.S. Congress in July.

In 1994, the U.S. government pledged to forgive up to \$702 million in Jordan's debts over the three years. The \$220 million first tranche of the write-off was formalised in September 1994, and a similar amount was expected in 1995. But following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October 1994, the Clinton administration promised to cancel the rest in one tranche.

However, the move ran into difficulties in the U.S. Congress since it was linked with internal cutbacks in the

American budget. Ultimately, the Congress approved the relevant expenditure to cancel all of Jordan's outstanding debts.

A statement from the U.S. embassy noted that the agreement signed on Monday "fulfills a commitment made by President (Bill) Clinton in June 1994 to forgive Jordan's public debt to the U.S."

According to the statement, the U.S. is "relieving Jordan of its obligations to service the small balance of debt to the United States until that is also cancelled."

"Thus, approximately \$700 million of public debts to the U.S. has been effectively written off by the U.S. treasury," said the statement.

The discrepancy between the total of the two tranches and the actual amount that was pledged resulted from fluctuations in the interest rates, but Jordan need not worry about the remaining \$60 million since it is only a matter of adjusting the U.S. books of accounts, informed sources explained.

According to the sources, the U.S. Congress authorised an expenditure of \$275 million to cancel all the remainder of Jordan's public debts

to the U.S. — about \$480 million — but between the time the administration made the proposal, got it approved by the legislature and drew up the actual documents for signing the so-called purchasing power of the \$275 million had shrunk to an equivalent of \$420 million in Jordan's public debt to the U.S."

However, the specific reference that the U.S. "is relieving Jordan of its obligations to service the small balance of debt to the United States until that is also cancelled" meant that the entire amount is technically cancelled, with the next steps strictly limited to within internal American accounting practices.

The statement from the U.S. embassy noted that "during the last fiscal year the U.S. has committed approximately \$375 million in military, agricultural and economic aid to Jordan above and beyond the debt relief package concluded today."

The United States is thus fulfilling its commitment to the people of Jordan in recognition of the bold steps Jordan has taken on behalf of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," said the statement.



JORDAN-PLO TALKS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday greets Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman and President of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Yasser Arafat at the Royal Palace (see story on page one) (photo by Boghos)

Qatar wants to sell gas through Jordan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Qatar wants to sell natural gas to Israel via a distribution centre it plans to build in Jordan.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said in an interview published here Monday.

Mr. Kabariti told the Egyptian government daily Al Ahram the plan would be presented during the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Amman at the end of October.

"It will be an international distribution centre for gas, and Israel will benefit as well as other countries in the region," Mr. Kabariti said.

"We hope that this pumping station will be linked in

the future to the Egyptian pipeline," which will be used to export its natural gas, he said.

Egypt plans to begin construction in 1997 of a pipeline linking Port Said in Egypt to Beirut via Israel, with extensions towards Jerusalem and the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho.

The pipeline's capacity would be six billion cubic metres of natural gas per year.

A private company was created in November 1994 to build the pipeline. It includes IEOC, a subsidiary of Italian AGIP, Amoco of the United States and Egypt Gas. It is capitalised at about \$300 million.

countries hold identical views, especially about the peace process and inter-Arab reconciliation, adding that coordination and cooperation between Amman and Cairo was ideal and exemplary.

Jordanian-Gulf relations, the minister said, are continually improving, especially with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He cited his recent meetings with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, who, he said, promised to visit Jordan next month after attending the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York.

Mr. Kabariti also met with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah in Cairo last week.

Iraq denies Baker's claim over invasion

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq denied Monday it planned to invade neighbouring Saudi Arabia during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis as claimed by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his soon-to-be-published memoirs.

Mr. Baker wrote that he had learned weeks after the 1991 Gulf war ended that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent a letter to Iran's President Hashem Rafsanjani "describing his intentions of living in peace with Iran on land which he referred to as 'our 840-kilometre seacoast.'"

Mr. Baker was the U.S. secretary of state during the Gulf crisis.

"Saddam was describing a new frontier extending from present day Iraq to the United Arab Emirates — which, of course, would include Saudi Arabia's Persian Gulf seacoast," he wrote in "The Politics of Diplomacy."

The official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted an unnamed authoritative source as saying "Baker's allegations have no base of truth."

"Baker has to prove the authenticity of what he says and show at least a photocopy of the alleged letter," it said.

President Saddam sent several messages to Mr. Rafsanjani after his forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990 in which he offered peaceful settlements to problems arising from the 1980-88 Iraqi-Iran war.

Kuwait's information minister was quoted Monday as saying that President Saddam's son-in-law, who defected to Jordan last month, gave the orders to burn Kuwaiti oil fields during the 1991 Gulf war.

Sheikh Saud Naser Al Sabah told the London-based Al Wasat weekly that Kuwait had documents showing that Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel was the Iraqi official who ordered that the oil wells be set ablaze just a few days before Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate was ended by a U.S.-led military coalition.

The Kuwait minister described Gen. Kamel as "a war criminal" and accused him of ordering the torture of Kuwaitis after Iraq invaded on Aug. 2, 1990.

On Friday Gen. Kamel told Cable News Network that the burning of the Kuwaiti oil fields was "an unacceptable act of sabotage" that had no strategic significance in the war. But he did not say he played any role.

COLUMN 8

Would someone please call Mr.

Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela has carried a gleaming mock-rosewood cellular telephone with him since his inauguration in April last year — but he has yet to receive a call. The phone and a case for his glasses were all that Mr. Mandela carried himself as he visited towns and villages in two provinces at the weekend campaigning for the country's first local elections open to all races in November. Asked who had the number, he told Reuters only his granddaughter, Rosalind Mthembu, a student who lives with him in Johannesburg, and private secretary Beryl Baker. "But, you know, ever since I've had it, I've never had a single call," Ms. Baker said later. "That's easy to explain: He never switches it on unless he wants to make a call."

Giant panda gives birth to twin cubs in China

BELJING (R) — A giant panda has given birth to twins, bringing to four the number of cubs born to the rare and notoriously unproductive animals in China's biggest reserve since last month, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It was the second time the panda has given birth to twins. Xinhua said in a report overnight Sunday. She produced a pair four years ago. One cub is being raised by researchers at the Wolong Nature Reserve because the mother is having difficulty feeding two cubs. Xinhua said. Four cubs have now been born in the reserve in southwestern Sichuan province since Aug. 16, Xinhua said. The reserve's research centre has helped to breed 13 panda cubs since 1986 and now boasts 30 giant pandas. No more than 1,000 giant pandas are believed to survive in the wild in China. Experts say one reason their numbers are dwindling is that the animals have poor reproductive capabilities.

Beijing to stage race up TV-tower stairwell

BELJING (R) — China said it would stage a stairwell foot race to the top of its television tower, a Chinese twist on New York's Empire State Building run-up. The winner will be the first to reach the lookout platform some 225 metres up the 407-metre Chinese Central Television Tower. Xinhua News Agency said. That's a heart-pounding 1,484 steps above ground. Due to space limitations, only 300 runners from 16 to 55 years old in four categories will be allowed to take part in the Oct. 10 race up Beijing's tallest structure.

Thai premier told to perform rites to beat eclipse jinx

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's most prominent fortune teller urged Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa Monday to perform Buddhist rites to ward off bad luck that will accompany a total eclipse of the sun in October. Pinyo

Pongcharoen, general secretary of International Astrologers Association, said major change in the government was inevitable with the Oct. 24 eclipse. But he said Mr. Banharn could soften the blow if he performed Buddhist rites.

"According to statistics and the country's stars, a jinx always comes with an eclipse. Major change and big loss is inevitable but if the government leader performs Buddhist rites he can lessen the power of the jinx," Mr. Pinyo said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

European court stages landmark Cypriot case

STRASBOURG (R) — The European Court of Human Rights began a landmark case on Monday when it examined charges that Turkey violated the rights of a Greek Cypriot woman by its 1974 invasion of the island. Plaintiff Titiana Loizidou, originally from Kyrenia in the north of the island, charged that the invasion deprived her of her rights to property in Kyrenia. About 200,000 people were displaced by the Turkish invasion. The court heard arguments from both sides in a hearing lasting about an hour. It went ahead with the unprecedented case, which could lead to thousands of similar claims if Ms. Loizidou wins, despite objections from Turkey which argued that northern Cyprus was a separate republic.

Indian, Pakistani woman executed in S. Arabia

Riyadh (AFP) — An Indian and a Pakistani woman were executed Monday in the western Saudi city of Jeddah for smuggling heroin into the country, bringing the number of death sentences carried out this year to a record 177. The Indian was beheaded by sword, but the Interior Ministry did not say how the woman was killed. Generally women face firing squad.

Kuwait takes delivery of first U.S. tanks

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait took delivery on Monday of its first U.S.-made Abrams A2-M1 tanks as part of an \$11 billion programme to beef up its defences, an official said. Kuwait received 16 of the tanks as part of the total 218 it contracted from General Dynamics Systems Division in 1993 at a cost of \$2 billion, a Kuwaiti Defence Ministry official said. The rest of the tanks are to be delivered in December. The U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, Ryan Crocker, attended the delivery ceremony. The Ahram A2-M1, a modified version of the Ahram M1-A1 used by the U.S. Army during the 1991 Gulf war, is to become the Kuwaiti military's main combat tank.

Mauritania to open representation in Gaza

CAIRO (AFP) — Mauritania will soon open an office of representation in the autonomous Gaza Strip, its embassy in Cairo announced on Monday. Mauritania's ambassador in Cairo, Sheikh Wadi Baha, met on Sunday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and informed him of the decision, the embassy statement said. Until the opening of the Gaza office, which has yet to be specified, the Cairo embassy will handle Mauritanian interests in the Palestinian territories, the statement added.

Belgium refuses visa for Zhirinovsky

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgium has refused to issue a visa for Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who was to have attended talks starting in the Belgian capital on Monday, a statement from the European Socialist Party group said. The outspoken Russian parliamentarian was part of a group of nine Russian deputies scheduled to meet members of the European Parliament on Monday and Tuesday to discuss the situation in western Europe. Pauline Green, leader of the Socialist group in the European assembly, said she regretted that Belgium had refused to give him a visa. She said the Socialists disagreed with his policies but would have liked to hold talks face-to-face.

10 defendants — and FBI — await jury verdict in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Prosecutors in the biggest terrorism trial in U.S. history accused Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and nine others of hatching a "monstrous" plot to kill thousands of people in a series of bombings in New York. But by the time the jury began deliberating Saturday, the defence had put the tactics of the nation's top law enforcement agency on trial, accusing the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of plotting to frame the defendants to revive its reputation.

"This case is about one of the biggest and most embarrassing moments in the FBI's history," defence lawyer John Jacobs told the jury in U.S. district court. Sheikh Abdul Rahman, a blind Egyptian religious leader, is charged with

leading 14 people in a plot to bomb the United Nations, the FBI's Manhattan offices, the Holland and Lincoln tunnels and the George Washington bridge — all in a single day.

Three defendants pleaded guilty, a fourth testified for the government and a fifth will be tried later. The remaining 10 defendants, if convicted, face maximum prison sentences ranging from life to 20 years. Deliberations continued Sunday and are expected to last about two weeks.

The Sheikh, prosecutors say, is a Muslim fundamentalist who saw the United States as Islam's worst enemy. He also is accused of inspiring others to kill Rabbi Meir Kahane in 1990, bomb the World Trade Centre in 1993 and plan to assassinate Egyptian

Kabul on alert

KABUL (AP) — The government stepped up security in the capital Monday amid fears of terrorist attacks by a warring opposition faction.

A threatened offensive on Kabul by opposition Taliban militia forces was cancelled on Sunday, but government officials said there was still the possibility of terrorist attacks.

"We're not taking any chances," said Sharif Ahmad, a paramilitary security officer working at a roadside checkpoint in Kabul.

Checkpoints have been set up at all major intersections and vehicles were being searched for weapons, he said.

The Talibans, a student-led opposition faction, aiming to topple the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, last week had threatened to attack the capital on Monday if Mr. Rabbani and his chief military ally Ahmad Shah Masoud did not surrender.

But faced with an increasingly fortified government perimeter around Kabul, Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Qayum backed down from his ultimatum.

"Our operation is waiting for the civilians to leave Kabul," Mr. Qayum said. "We can't set a time for the attack, but we are ready."

Although brushing the threat aside, Mr. Rabbani has continued to redeploy extra troops at all key front lines around Kabul.

Hundreds of government troops were seen being transported from the capital to front-line positions west and south of the city.

Government commanders say the possibility of the Talibans breaking through their lines was next to impossible.

"We give 100 per cent assurance to the people of Kabul for their protection," commander Kadam Shah said.

Informed sources said the government has promised to free at least 500 more political prisoners, and that it may want to open a dialogue with the opposition.

Small groups of prisoners have been freed each week over the past month, but without any official announcements. Some villages have been decorated with colourful tents and festooned with banners to welcome the freed prisoners.

Bahrain releases dissident cleric

Amnesty censures Bahrain

AMMAN (AP) — A prominent Shiite Muslim opposition leader was freed from prison Monday, more than five months after security forces seized him from his home at dawn.

Sheikh Abdul Ameen Al Jamri, a 55-year-old cleric, was arrested in April following street riots over unemployment and the government's refusal to reinstate an elected parliament it dissolved 20 years ago.

His release was not officially announced but he was given a hero's welcome at his home in Beni Jamri village near Manama.

More than 2,000 protesters were arrested following riots that erupted in December last year. The government blamed the riots on "outsiders," a reference to overwhelming Shiite Iran, which denied any involvement.

Two detainees died in custody and scores were tortured under interrogation. Up to 4,000 people may have been arrested and while hundreds were later released, an unknown number are still in prison. Amnesty said.

Amnesty said Bahrain, which has refused to allow the group into the country, had denied the scale of violations.

Small groups of prisoners have been freed each week over the past month, but without any official announcements. Some villages have been decorated with colourful tents and festooned with banners to welcome the freed prisoners.

Amnesty said the device lacked the right mix of ingredients to explode.

Prosecutors provided the jury with transcripts of speeches in which Sheikh Abdul Rahman urged attacks on the U.S. military in the Middle East. And they spent weeks showing evidence from the trade centre bombing — despite trailing three of the bombers as far back as 1989 and infiltrating the alleged militants with Mr. Salem in 1991.

But authorities may have stretched the evidence, said Vincent Cannistraro, the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) chief of counterterrorism operations from 1988 to 1990 and now an international security consultant.

"When it was all over, the newspapers could print — and they did print — headlines saying 'FBI stops terrorist plot,'" Mr. Jacobs said. "That's the motivation."

Prosecutors played dozens of taped conversations that were secretly recorded by FBI informant Emad Salem. They showed videotape of five defendants allegedly mixing a bomb in a garage — although a prosecution expert testified the device lacked the right mix of ingredients to explode.

Attorney Andrew McCarthy defended the FBI, saying it quickly solved the trade centre bombing and made arrests.

The defence accused FBI agents and Mr. Salem of concocting the bomb plot so they could race in and play hero.